

**ROBERT A. WAGNER**  
**STATE SENATOR**  
DISTRICT 19



**OREGON STATE SENATE**

Co-Chairs,

Thank you for the opportunity to be here today.

We are nearing the last few weeks of this legislative session, and HB3209 needs to be near the top of our priority list.

The four of us testifying today, representing the entire Clackamas County delegation, are united in our view that the legislature must move forward on this bill this year.

This is, however, not a Clackamas County issue. I-205 is becoming a bottleneck of Northwest significance, not just local or regional or statewide significance.

More than 100,000 vehicles use this section of I-205 each day and drivers experience 5 ½ hours of congestion daily. Gridlock in the area leads to hundreds of millions of dollars in lost time, revenue, and economic benefit for the state. Very clearly, this affects not only our region, but our state, our partners to our north, and to our south. The congestion affects our economy. The situation impacts the safety of our commuters. The bridge itself is seismically outdated. It would likely fail in any seismic incident.

It affects our environment - - a car which is stationary puts out 4 X as much pollution as one that is moving.

It impacts our local streets, side roads, and communities, as new technology like Waze and Google Maps directs traffic up, over, through, and into our small local, residential streets in Wilsonville, and West Linn, and Tualatin, and Lake Oswego and Oregon City.

2017's \$5.3 billion transportation funding package (HB 2017) included only limited funding to advance the design work for the I-205 Expansion/Abernethy Bridge Reconstruction/Seismic improvements. Our clear understanding was that when design and refined costs were more certain, the legislature would determine a path to fund and advance these projects. That time has come. We are at that point. Moving ahead now is achievable, it is financially sound, and it is imperative to resolving this critical gridlock nightmare.

I urge this Committee to work with us to find a path for us to move this bill through the process and get this project going this biennium.

Sincerely,

**Senator Robert A. Wagner**  
Senate District 19

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