



April 24, 2023

Sen. Lew Frederick, Co-Chair
Rep. Susan McLain, Co-Chair
Sen. Brian Boquist, Co-Vice Chair
Rep. Shelly Boshart Davis, Co-Vice Chair
Joint Transportation Committee
Oregon State Legislature
900 Court St NE
Salem, OR 97301

Co-Chairs, Co-Vice Chairs, Members of the Oregon Legislature Joint Transportation Committee:

On behalf of the business leaders group Identity Clark County and the [Clark County Transportation Alliance](#), we offer our support for the HB 2098-2 amendment, the Interstate 5 Bridge Replacement bill.

Your commitment will match a \$1B commitment made in 2022 by the Washington state legislature. Your decision better positions the Interstate Bridge Replacement Program to compete for \$3B+ in federal funding opportunities made possible by the 2021 Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (formerly known as the Infrastructure Investment & Jobs Act), while easing pressure on a local funding component.

Replacement of the I-5 bridge and improvements to its influence area is broadly and widely supported by business and community leaders in both Oregon and Washington. Please note the attached Clark County Transportation Alliance policy statement which for five years has prioritized I-5 bridge replacement as the region's #1 transportation priority.

The I-5 bridge and influence area connecting Oregon and Washington need to be replaced and modernized to ensure regional economic resiliency and mobility. The corridor is an **economic lifeline handling 140,000 vehicle trips a day, including nearly 20,000 truck trips that move \$35B of goods annually on weekdays**, a majority which stop, start or end in the corridor. The I-5 bridge routinely appears on the list of the nation's worst freight choke points, currently at #31. The current I-5 bridge spans are 106 and 65 years old and considered beyond their practical life. Replacing the bridge spares substantial deferred maintenance and seismic upgrades. It also modernizes the corridor by removing traffic-stopping lifts and sight-impairing humps, and adding safety shoulders, merge lanes, active transportation and integrated transit.

Thank you for your bi-state regional cooperation to improve this critical interstate corridor.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ron Arp', is written over a white background.

Ron Arp
President, Identity Clark County
Coordinator, Clark County Transportation Alliance