



April 25, 2023

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Member Jurisdictions

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- Skamania County*
- Klickitat County*
- City of Vancouver*
- City of Camas*
- City of Washougal*
- City of Battle Ground*
- City of Ridgefield*
- City of La Center*
- Town of Yacolt*
- City of Stevenson*
- City of North Bonneville*
- City of White Salmon*
- City of Bingen*
- City of Goldendale*
- C-TRAN*
- Washington DOT*
- Port of Vancouver*
- Port of Camas-Washougal*
- Port of Ridgefield*
- Port of Skamania County*
- Port of Klickitat*
- Cowlitz Indian Tribe*
- Metro*
- Oregon DOT*
- 14th Legislative District*
- 17th Legislative District*
- 18th Legislative District*
- 20th Legislative District*
- 49th Legislative District*

The Honorable Lew Frederick, Co-Chair
The Honorable Susan McLain, Co-Chair
The Honorable Brian Boquist, Co-Vice Chair
The Honorable Shelly Boshart Davis, Co-Vice Chair

RE: Support Funding for Interstate Bridge Replacement Program (HB 2098)

I am offering the following comments on behalf of the Southwest Washington Regional Transportation Council (RTC), the state’s designated MPO serving the counties of Clark County (WA), and co-project sponsor to the Interstate Bridge Replacement Program. These comments are offered in support of HB 2098.

RTC, in collaboration with project sponsoring agencies to the Interstate Bridge Replacement (IBR) Program, has been actively engaged in the planning and outreach, since initiation of work authorized in in the Oregon-Washington Memorandum of Intent on Replacing the I-5 Bridge over the Columbia River (November, 2019). Replacement of this interstate bridge is the top-ranking unfunded project priority within the RTC’s [Regional Transportation Plan for Clark County](#) (March 2019). The project has also been rated as the #1 regional legislative priority in the [Clark County Transportation Alliance Policy Statement](#) for the last 5-years straight.

Washington and Oregon leaders and community groups have worked diligently to establish a framework for moving this project forward. Further, Washington state’s Move Ahead Washington transportation funding act committed \$1 Billion towards bridge construction, and tolling authorization was just granted during the 2023 legislative session. Through Washington’s recent funding contributions, we are pleased to witness the development of a truly bi-state funding plan. We now await enactment of Oregon’s funding commitments as proposed in HB 2098.

RTC affirms this investment is a regional priority as established in numerous long-term plans, and supports the appropriation of \$1 Billion in Oregon state funds to enable construction of the IBR program. HB 2098 is a laudable investment in Oregon’s infrastructure and economy, enabling a safe and multi-modal bi-state connection, and promoting resiliency and prosperity within the bi-state region for decades to come.

Sincerely

Matt Ransom
Executive Director