



# Oregon

Tina Kotek, Governor

Department of Transportation

Director's Office

355 Capitol St. NE, MS 11

Salem, OR 97301

January 30, 2025

Senator Aaron Woods, Co-Chair  
Representative David Gomberg, Co-Chair  
Joint Committee on Ways and Means  
Subcommittee on Transportation and Economic Development  
900 Court Street NE  
H-178 State Capitol  
Salem, OR 97301

Dear Co-Chairs:

During the Tuesday, January 28<sup>th</sup>, meeting of the Transportation and Economic Development Subcommittee, ODOT requested legislative approval to apply for a USDOT Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development (BUILD) grant for Bullards Bridge to fund preliminary study and design of a bicycle and pedestrian bridge adjacent to an existing structure to move vulnerable road users off the narrow, 26' wide bridge. Subcommittee members asked questions regarding the Bullards Bridge federal grant application, including expending resources for planning, designing, and funding its replacement relative to other transportation priorities in the state.

Built in 1954, Bullards Bridge is one of 670 pre-Interstate Era State Highway bridges that remain in service. It is in satisfactory/fair condition and has adequate load capacity, but it is seismically vulnerable and does not provide sufficient space for safe vehicle and bike/ped use. While the bridge is seismically vulnerable, it is included within the third phase of the Seismic Triage plan; approximately 400 bridges statewide are identified as a higher priority for replacement.

This federal grant application represents an opportunity to bring competitive federal dollars back to the state of Oregon, while preparing more refined plans and cost estimates to support a future federal grant application for construction funding. If funded, this planning grant provides a unique opportunity to eventually increase safety of users of the Hwy 101 corridor, the Oregon Coast Trail, the Oregon Coast Bike Route within tourism-dependent communities along Oregon's south coast. Without this federal funding, ODOT will not advance this planning work and will therefore be unable to apply for future federal grants due to lack of readiness.

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Thank you for your thoughtful consideration of the grant request and for the opportunity to address the committee's concerns. If you have additional questions, please reach out to me or Lindsay Baker, Assistant Director for Government and External Relations.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Kristopher W. Strickler". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'K'.

Kristopher W. Strickler  
Director