

HB 2184 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Joint Committee On Transportation

Action Date: 04/21/25

Action: Do pass and be referred to Ways and Means by prior reference

House Vote

Yeas: 6 - Boshart Davis, Gamba, Helfrich, Mannix, McLain, Nathanson

Exc: 1 - Evans

Senate Vote

Yeas: 5 - Gorsek, Meek, Pham, Starr, Weber

Fiscal: Fiscal impact issued

Revenue: Revenue impact issued

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Meeting Dates: 4/1, 4/21

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

The measure directs the State Treasurer to issue general obligation bonds sufficient to produce net funds sufficient for the Hood River-White Salmon Bridge replacement project, for the biennia beginning July 1, 2025 (\$75 million) and July 1, 2027 (\$30 million).

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Declining state of existing bridge
- Lack of adequate bicycle and pedestrian access
- Narrow bridge leads to vehicle damage
- Crash that damaged bridge a few years ago
- Distance to next nearest crossings
- Bridge closures cause residents to be cut off from services

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

The Hood River-White Salmon bridge is a two-lane truss bridge that extends over 4,400 feet across the Columbia River, connecting the communities of Hood River, Oregon, and White Salmon, Washington. The bridge opened to traffic in 1924 as the Waucoma Interstate Bridge; a lift span was added in 1938 to the bridge to accommodate river traffic on higher river levels following completion of the Bonneville Dam.

Today, the Hood River-White Salmon bridge operates as a tolled facility, one of two in the state of Oregon, with vehicles assessed a toll ranging from 75 cents for motorcycles and \$2 for passenger vehicles to \$3 per axle for trucks. Tolls may be paid in cash or by electronic account. While the purpose of the tolls is to pay for ongoing maintenance, the bridge, in its current condition, is designated as functionally obsolete and has a sufficiency rating of less than 10, with weight restrictions in place and special procedures to handle when large trucks cross. It has no bicycle or pedestrian capacity, for safety reasons.

House Bill 2184 appropriates \$105 million, over the next two biennia, from general obligation bond proceeds for the Hood River-White Salmon Bridge replacement project.