

A-Engrossed
House Joint Memorial 22

Ordered by the House April 26
Including House Amendments dated April 26

Sponsored by Representatives KOTEK, BEYER, Senators BEYER, STARR; Representatives BENTZ, BERGER, HUNT, READ, Senator ATKINSON

SUMMARY

The following summary is not prepared by the sponsors of the measure and is not a part of the body thereof subject to consideration by the Legislative Assembly. It is an editor's brief statement of the essential features of the measure.

Urges federal government to fund [*Columbia River Crossing Project*] **building, rebuilding and modernization of bridges, interchanges and interstate highway within Columbia Crossing area.**

JOINT MEMORIAL

1
2 To the President of the United States and the Senate and the House of Representatives of the United
3 States of America, in Congress assembled:

4 We, your memorialists, the Seventy-sixth Legislative Assembly of the State of Oregon, in legis-
5 lative session assembled, respectfully represent as follows:

6 Whereas Interstate 5 is the only continuous north-south interstate highway on the west coast
7 and provides a vital commerce and travel corridor that links the United States, Canada and Mexico,
8 including the states of Oregon, Washington and California; and

9 Whereas Interstate 5, as it leaves Vancouver, Washington, and enters Portland, Oregon, crosses
10 the one-half mile wide Columbia River, which separates these two metropolitan cities; and

11 Whereas the segment of Interstate 5 between these two cities contains seven interchanges and
12 two bridges known as the "Columbia Crossing"; and

13 Whereas more than \$40 billion dollars in interstate and international commerce flows over the
14 Columbia Crossing to nearby ports, businesses and distribution facilities annually; and

15 Whereas the current design and condition of the Interstate 5 bridges, interstate highway and
16 interchanges within the Columbia Crossing present serious safety, quality of life, economic vitality
17 and environmental issues that greatly affect the region and the State of Oregon; and

18 Whereas the existing Interstate 5 bridges and interchanges within the Columbia Crossing are
19 not constructed to modern building standards and would be vulnerable to a major earthquake; and

20 Whereas the design and condition of the Columbia Crossing contribute to over 400 traffic acci-
21 dents annually, contribute to significant congestion and impede freight mobility; and

22 Whereas the States of Oregon and Washington, after 10 years of concerted effort, have devel-
23 oped a proposal known as the "Columbia River Crossing Project" to address these issues; and

24 Whereas the Columbia River Crossing Project, when approved, would constitute a Project of
25 National and Regional Significance and a crucial transportation project that would expand the ca-
26 pacity of the Interstate 5 bridges, interchanges and highway within the Columbia Crossing; and

27 Whereas the Columbia River Crossing Project would create many new and sustainable jobs by

NOTE: Matter in **boldfaced** type in an amended section is new; matter [*italic and bracketed*] is existing law to be omitted. New sections are in **boldfaced** type.

1 providing vastly improved access to ports, the metropolitan areas and interstate highways; and

2 Whereas the Columbia River Crossing Project must meet both the needs of local residents and
3 the needs of Oregon's and Washington's statewide business communities to move people to work and
4 products to market safely and effectively; and

5 Whereas the Columbia River Crossing Project is one solution that addresses the major issues
6 of public safety, economic vitality and the environment; and

7 Whereas the Oregon Legislative Assembly acknowledges that the Columbia River Crossing
8 Project, when finalized and approved, would be paid for by federal, state and local funding; and

9 Whereas the State of Oregon and the State of Washington, to provide clear accountability and
10 responsibility for decision-making, are together developing and finalizing a governing structure for
11 the Columbia River Crossing Project that must be reviewed and approved by the legislatures of both
12 states; and

13 Whereas the taxpayers of Oregon expect the Oregon Legislative Assembly to retain oversight
14 and authority over major Columbia River Crossing Project decisions and all decisions regarding
15 payment of the cost of the Columbia River Crossing Project; and

16 Whereas Oregon's Legislative Assembly will hold Oregon's Department of Transportation ac-
17 countable and responsible for the Columbia River Crossing Project, when and as approved, and will
18 require Oregon's Department of Transportation to report to Oregon's Legislative Assembly on a
19 regular basis regarding the status of the Columbia River Crossing Project; and

20 Whereas the State of Oregon and the State of Washington will continue to cooperate in the
21 development of the Columbia River Crossing Project so that it is completed in a timely manner and
22 within budget; now, therefore,

23 **Be It Resolved by the Legislative Assembly of the State of Oregon:**

24 (1) The Seventy-sixth Legislative Assembly respectfully urges the federal government of the
25 United States of America to join with the States of Oregon and Washington to invest federal high-
26 way and transit funding in the building, rebuilding and modernization of the bridges, interchanges
27 and interstate highway within the Columbia Crossing area, in recognition of the national benefits
28 inherent in the area.

29 (2) A copy of this memorial shall be sent to the President of the United States, to the Senate
30 Majority Leader, to the Speaker of the House of Representatives, to each member of the Oregon
31 Congressional Delegation and to the United States Secretary of Transportation.

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