

# Across Oregon We Agree: Vote "Yes" on HB 2800-A



FROM OFFICE OF:

*Arnold R. Roblan*



OREGON STATE BUILDING & CONSTRUCTION TRADES COUNCIL

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Metro



# Vote “Yes” on HB 2800-A (I-5 Bridge Replacement) A Critical Economic Investment for Oregon

*Passed in the House on a bipartisan vote of 45-11*

The I-5 Bridge Replacement Project is a corridor enhancement project that is critical for safety, our economy, and our local workforce. If nothing is done, congestion will increase to a projected 15 hours per day by 2030.

After 20 years of discussions and countless public meetings, the I-5 Bridge Replacement Project is the solution that will increase freeway safety, improve access to multimodal transportation options and reduce traffic congestion, all while creating thousands of jobs for Oregonians. We cannot let this opportunity pass us by.

## **Transparency and Accountability**

Oregon’s share of construction costs, \$450 million, may only be released after the Coast Guard approves bridge height, the FTA contributes \$850 million, and Washington State approves its fair share of the cost.

The bill requires quarterly accountability reviews to ensure that tax payers are getting what they paid for.

## **Safe Transportation**

The drawbridge on the current I-5 crossing is the only “stop light” on I-5, and creates the worst chokepoint for moving commerce and people throughout the entire corridor.

The project will eliminate the risk of catastrophic loss of the existing bridge in an earthquake, which would cause economic hardship if the West Coast’s main highway and marine corridor was inoperable.

Approximately 400 collisions a year (more than one per day) occur on or near the bridge, creating frequent traffic gridlock. Replacing the bridge will help to address the current high rate of collisions.

With the addition of emergency lanes on the new bridge, ambulances and other emergency vehicles will be able to get to an accident scene faster.

## **Jobs for Oregonians**

The replacement bridge will result in the creation of 4,200 jobs and \$231 million in additional wages in 2030, compared to the “no build” scenario.

In Oregon, over 400,000 jobs—or 1 in 9—substantially rely on the transportation system as a key component of their day-to-day business operation.

The project will allow Oregon and Washington to leverage approximately \$1 billion in federal funds to help finance construction—money that would not otherwise be spent in our region.

## **Healthy Project**

The I-5 Bridge Replacement will have a filtration system to remove oil and other toxins from roadway runoff, which currently enters the river and into salmon habitat.

The lower decks of the bridge will be dedicated to alternative modes of transportation: world class bicycle and pedestrian facilities and the first inter-state light rail on the West Coast.

The I-5 Bridge Replacement Project offers an incredible opportunity for Oregon to create thousands of jobs, improve our region’s long term economic viability, increase safety, and promote multimodal transportation options. We need to build a new bridge and now is the time to do it.