

Joint Interim Committee On The Interstate 5 Bridge –

In the event I am unable to connect during your meeting today, I wish to share the following information.

First, please accept our thanks for Rep. Jake Fey and Sen. Lynda Wilson speaking during the August 26 Business Leaders Regional Transportation Summit. This is the fourth such event hosted by Identity Clark County, the Columbia Corridor Association, and the SW Freight and Commerce Task Force, and co-hosted by the Portland Business Alliance, Greater Vancouver Chamber, Greater Portland Inc., Columbia River Economic Development Council, SW Contractors Association, and the Northwest Utility Contractors Association. We are aware that others on your committee monitored the online summit, and we also appreciated hearing federal perspectives from the offices of Sen. Ron Wyden and Rep. Peter DeFazio.

During the summit, we conducted an online poll among the business leaders, community leaders and policymakers participating. Of the 150 participants, about 60 percent responded to our poll. Here are key highlights:

- 99 percent of respondents support proceeding with replacement of the I-5 bridge.
- 99 percent support pursuing a combination of federal, state and local funds to replace the I-5 bridge.
- 80 percent support pursuing project funding in the 2021-23 legislative biennium, whereas just 17 percent favored waiting until 2023-25.
- 53 percent indicated tolls should be utilized for local project funding, while 23 percent favored fuel taxes and 5 percent favored carbon fees.
- 85 percent said the bridge should be designed with special accommodations for freight and commerce.
- 60 percent said the project's biggest obstacle will be local funds, while 21 percent named project design, 16 percent said equity and inclusion, and just 3 percent said environmental consideration

We hope these insights provide fresh evidence that our region is ready to Fix 5 Now, and look forward to continued support and partnership with those seeking to replace the 103-year-old bridge.

We also applaud the work of our two departments of transportation for completing the trunnion replacement project quickly, despite a wildfire-induced delay. We note that the spans will need repainting and resurfacing over the next 20 years, which is estimated to cost \$282 million, plus of course the \$2 million annually for staff to tend the bridge. Avoiding these costs by building a new bridge serves as an excellent down-payment on the replacement project.

Sincerely,

Ron D. Arp

President, Identity Clark County

Co-Leader, Clark County Transportation Alliance

Coordinator, SW Washington Freight and Commerce Task Force

Note: Please use discretion with your personal information in written testimony (i.e., do not add personal information you do not want the public to see). All meeting materials, including your name and any personal information contained in the submitted documents, are posted to the Oregon Legislative Information System (OLIS) and are accessible to all major search engines, including Google, Bing, and Yahoo.