



City of Aurora

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**Testimony Supporting SB 1021 by
Mayor Kris Sallee, City of Aurora**

**Proposed Legislation and Amendment Advances Crucial ODOT project to
Improve 1-5/Boone Bridge Traffic-Congestion Chokepoint and Do
Seismic Retrofit**

Public Hearing May 15, 2019
Joint Committee on Transportation

Co-Chairs Beyer and McKeown and Members of the Committee:

My name is Kris Sallee, and I am the Mayor of the City of Aurora. You should have my contact information on file. I am here to provide my strong support of SB 1021, which directs the Oregon Department of Transportation to add the southbound auxiliary lane on the portion of Interstate 5 near the City of Wilsonville and make the seismic improvements to the Boone Bridge. I also support a friendly amendment by Representative Courtney Neron (HD 26) to this bill that would appropriate \$3.5 million to ODOT for project-acceptance development, including preliminary engineering and design.

The I-5 Boone Bridge, which traverses the Willamette River between Portland and Salem, crossing the river not far from my city, is one of the most traveled bridges in Oregon. Over 130,000 vehicles cross the I-5 Boone Bridge daily, with a significant number of Aurora-area residents commuting north towards the Portland metro area for employment, often experiencing severe traffic congestion during ever-expanding morning and evening "rush-hours."

While this project adds a one-mile-long southbound auxiliary lane, the I-5 Wilsonville Facility Plan does not increase freeway capacity. Rather, it helps to connect the design flaw of the interchange area of I-5 at the Boone Bridge with the 99E connector and State Highway 551 ("Aurora-Hubbard Cut-off") that serves the communities of Aurora, Donald, Canby, Hubbard and Woodburn (and beyond).

The project also addresses the critically-needed seismically upgrades of the I-5 Boone Bridge, to withstand the predicted Cascadia event (9.0 earthquake). This will be crucial for Oregon's post-event recovery.

Thank you for your consideration of this very important issue and on behalf of the City of Aurora, I urge you to advance SB 1021 now, with consideration of the friendly amendment, to help us address this regionally-significant situation.

Thank you.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Kris Sallee".