



Funding Request for Engineering and Design of a Bike/Ped pathway on the Bridge of the Gods

The Bridge of the Gods is a key regional transit connection in the Columbia River Gorge and is a vital link to the economies of North Central Oregon and Southern Washington. The Federal Government has also designated the bridge as the official route of the Pacific Crest Trail.

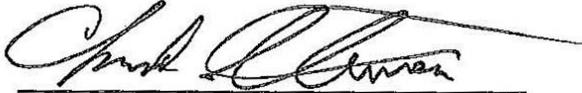
The surface of the 1920's vintage bridge was never designed to safely accommodate both modern traffic loads and the recreational use that comes from hikers and equestrians on the PCT. Last year, more than 7,000 people walked across the bridge and had to share the narrow lanes with vehicles, cars and long trucks alike. This is becoming a real public safety concern.

The Port of Cascade Locks (bridge owners), along with the Pacific Crest Trail Association and recreation organizations throughout the Pacific Northwest, are asking the Oregon Legislature to approve a \$500,000 request for funding to design and engineer the addition of a Bicycle and Pedestrian lane to the Bridge of the Gods. The walkway, separate from vehicle travel lanes, will provide safe passageway for PCT hikers and a growing number of bicyclists to travel between Oregon and Washington. Currently no such passageway exists between Portland and The Dalles.

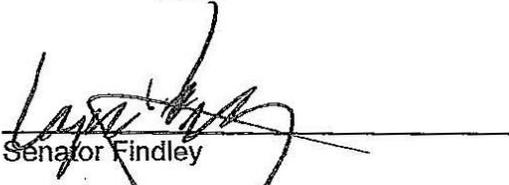
The Washington Legislature is considering a similar request for \$500K during its current session. Rep. Gina Mosbrucker, Sen. Curtis King and the Governor's Office of Outdoor Recreation are committed to bringing this request before their legislature in order to have a bi-state commitment to this vital regional need. This bi-state funding model follows the formula for supporting the work of the Columbia River Gorge Commission.

The Port of Cascade Locks and the Pacific Crest Trail Association request the E-Board be directed to release 500K to the Port, if the state of Washington makes the same amount available for this project prior to the 2021 Oregon Legislative Session. Together, this funding will allow the POCL to complete the design and scoping of the project and to be able to determine the accurate cost for construction. The Port and the PCTA are actively engaged with the NW congressional delegation to secure language in the FAST Act reauthorization that will enable the project to receive federal funding.

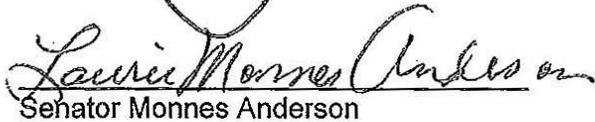
We the undersigned members of the Oregon Legislature represent portions of the Columbia River Gorge region in the Oregon Legislature. We support this funding request for the 2020 legislative session as we believe it will lead to bi-state cooperation in solving a real public safety issue and will lead to increased regional economic growth. We encourage House and Senate leadership to support this request.



Senator Thomsen



Senator Findley



Senator Monnes Anderson



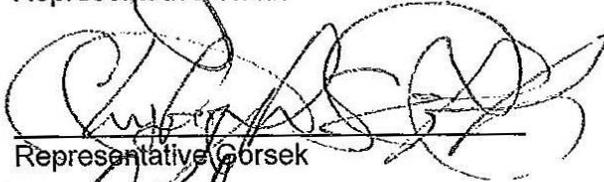
Representative Williams



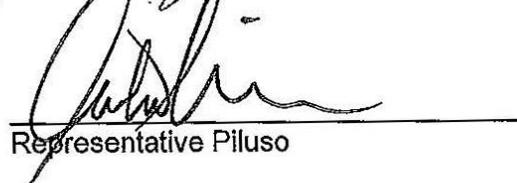
Representative Bohham



Representative Smith



Representative Gorsek



Representative Piluso



Artist's Rendering of potential Bike/Ped Lane on Bridge of the Gods

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