

## **SUBCOMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION**

### **Item 40: Department of Transportation Interstate Bridge Replacement Project**

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To: Ways and Means Full Committee  
From: Transportation and Economic Development Subcommittee  
Carrier: Representative Gomberg

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The Transportation and Economic Development Subcommittee recommends that the Joint Interim Committee on Ways and Means recommend including an increase of \$3,636,767 in the Other Funds expenditure limitation and authorizing the establishment of 12 permanent full-time positions (9.42 FTE) for the Department of Transportation in a budget reconciliation bill during the 2022 legislative session, to provide dedicated resources to the Interstate Bridge Replacement Program.

Since 2019, Oregon and Washington have been working collaboratively on a renewed commitment to replace the aging I-5 Interstate Bridge. By leveraging earlier applicable work from the Columbia River Crossing effort that existed between 2005-2013, ODOT was able to staff the initial phases of the project with existing resources. The project is now approaching the phase where dedicated resources and attention are needed to begin construction by 2025. Positions will support program administration; environmental management; contracting; engineering; government relations and outreach; financial planning, modeling and management; cultural resource coordination; public meetings and reporting; and real estate services. Federal Highway Administration formula allocations support this project.

The Subcommittee recommends approval.