



July 19, 2022

Senator Lee Beyer, Co-Chair
Representative Susan McLain, Co-Chair
**Joint Interim Committee on the Interstate
5 Bridge**
Oregon State Capitol Building
900 Court Street NE, Room 453
Salem, OR 97301

Senator Annette Cleveland, Co-Chair
Senator Lynda Wilson, Co-Chair
Representative Brandon Vick, Co-Chair
Representative Sharon Wylie, Co-Chair
**Joint Oregon-Washington Legislative Action
Committee**
John A. Cherberg Building
PO Box 40466
Olympia, WA 98504

Dear Members of the Bi-State Legislative Committee:

On behalf of the entire Beaverton City Council, I am sharing our support for the Interstate Bridge Replacement (IBR) Program's proposed modified Locally Preferred Alternative (LPA). Adoption of the modified LPA is a major milestone in replacing the aging Interstate 5 (I-5) bridge across the Columbia River with a seismically resilient, multimodal structure. As important, the modified LPA provides a balanced approach to addressing many complex issues regarding the bridge design, transit, bike and pedestrian access, and local access through a lens of equity and climate action.

I-5 is the most important freight highway on the West Coast, linking Beaverton-area businesses to regional, national, and international markets; nevertheless, the current I-5 bridge has been identified as the worst truck bottleneck in Oregon and Washington and is vulnerable to failure in the event of an earthquake. The project area also experiences crash rates over three times higher than statewide averages for comparable facilities.

The modified LPA outlines much needed transportation improvements to address the crossing's congestion reduction and multimodal safety needs. These improvements are based on extensive public engagement and were evaluated against key equity and climate objectives. It is critical that the modified LPA moves forward in the process to signal bi-state consensus so that significant financial commitments and legislative actions can take place, while also allowing additional modifications through the Supplemental Draft Environmental Impact Statement (SDEIS) process.

Adopting the modified LPA now is an important next step to moving the IBR Program forward and strategically positioning it for federal funding. We encourage your support of the modified LPA and invite you to reach out with questions.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lacey Beaty". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Lacey Beaty, Mayor
City of Beaverton