



July 19, 2022

To: Bi-State Legislative Committee

Subject: Interstate Bridge Replacement Project – Locally Preferred Alternative

Community in Motion is submitting this letter in support of the Interstate Bridge Replacement Project – Locally Preferred Alternative

Community in Motion is a non-profit that serves a five-county area in Washington State including: Cowlitz, Wahkiakum, Clark, Klickitat and Skamania. Our mission is to connect our neighbors with access to reliable transportation options that support healthy, independent living. Community in Motion serves many low-income, seniors, veterans and those living with a disability.

At Community in Motion our mission is to connect our neighbors with access to reliable transportation options that support healthy, independent living. The current Interstate Bridge does not reliably support our mission. In 2021, Community in Motion assisted our clients with over 8,000 trips to the Portland Metro area to access necessary medical appointments.

Over 143,000 vehicles cross the Interstate Bridge each weekday. Within a 24-hour period, the bridge corridor experiences 7 to 10 hours of congestion, affecting the service we provide to our community. This congestion leads to longer wait times and longer travel times for our clients. Additionally, a number of our transportation providers will not transport into Portland or limit the times they will travel to Portland to avoid having drivers sit in traffic.

A multimodal replacement bridge will improve the travel experience and reliability for all travelers and provide equitable access to economic and transportation benefits. Our region needs a seismically resilient multimodal solution that prioritizes equitable, safe, and efficient movement of people and goods in alignment with climate goals for our region. If we are to support equitable transportation access, it is essential that we align as a region and support replacing the Interstate Bridge.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jeananne Edwards". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Jeananne Edwards
Executive Director