



A place where families and businesses thrive.

June 13, 2022

To: Senator Lee Beyer and Representative Susan McLain
Joint Committee on Transportation
Oregon State Legislature
900 Court Street, NE
Salem, OR 97301

Re: Interstate Bridge Committee

Dear Chair Beyer and Chair McLain,

Replacement of the I-5 Interstate Bridge is critical to the region's overall economic viability for the future and its survivability in the case of disaster. Our state simply cannot afford to suffer another failed attempt at finding a workable solution which results in a positive outcome that addresses freight mobility and travel. Communities along the corridor from Washington to California rely on the I-5 Interstate Bridge for the efficient movement of freight and goods as well as provide a means for millions of people to travel whether for work or play.

Even the businesses in Forest Grove depend on unencumbered access to regional transportation networks to remain competitive in their national and international markets. The products produced by Forest Grove businesses are transported to ports for shipment to Asian markets and transported via truck throughout the United States. Special interests, naysayers and political agendas should not prevent this completely non-partisan project from failing again. While there is the beginning of a shift away from fossil-based fuels, it is expected that even electric vehicles will continue to use surface transportation and road networks for the life of a replacement bridge. Our future depends on the investment in this bridge replacement.

Therefore, on behalf of the City of Forest Grove Council I urge you, the committee and the legislature to provide the leadership necessary to keep this project on track, on time and fully funded.

Respectfully,

Peter Truax
Mayor
City of Forest Grove