

July 20, 2022

Joint Committee on the Interstate 5 Bridge

Via Email: JI5B.exhibits@oregonlegislature.gov

Dear Co-Chairs Beyer and McLain and Members of the Committee:

The more than 50 undersigned organizations and our collective members support a new, multi-modal I-5 bridge that will move people and goods safely and efficiently. As you are aware, local, regional and state governments are poised to vote on the most critical transportation infrastructure project in Oregon. We must replace the bridge now to address the vulnerability of the two structures to seismic activity. The new bridge also must move people and goods efficiently even as our region continues to grow.

We appreciate the effort undertaken to replace the bridge. The inclusion of light rail and safe routes for pedestrians and cyclists will help move greater numbers of people over the bridge more efficiently. Yet, we remain concerned that other needs have not been adequately addressed. These include the need for additional capacity to serve commuters and businesses that rely on the timely delivery of raw materials for use in manufacturing and the movement of finished products to markets.

The transportation infrastructure needs of our region in 2022 are dramatically different than in 1917 when the older, northbound span opened or even in 1960 when the “new” southbound span was completed. Even with the addition of multi-modal options, we worry that the overall future capacity needs of the bridge have not been met. Our region continues to grow, and employers are recalibrating their workforce to be highly mobile.

In addition, the single auxiliary lane under consideration will not serve freight needs adequately. The Interstate Bridge Replacement Program estimates that the addition of a single auxiliary lane will improve travel times by a mere handful of minutes. It does not serve our region to add a fraction of the capacity needed to improve the seven to 10 hours a day of congestion that currently persists.

The modified locally preferred alternative may satisfy the vocal few who would prefer no expansion of vehicle capacity – or no new bridge at all. However, our transportation system is integrally connected to our economy, and the new bridge must better convey the more than \$70 million in freight it carries every day.

We support the replacement of the bridge but remain concerned that it lacks adequate vehicle capacity and urge you to consider an option that provides for two auxiliary lanes in each direction.

Thank you for your consideration.



We Feed You



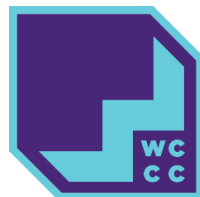
OREGON ASSOCIATION OF NURSERIES



BEAVERTON AREA Chamber of Commerce

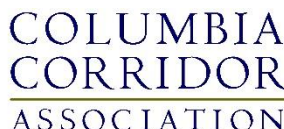


Home Builders Association of Metropolitan Portland



WASHINGTON COUNTY CHAMBER of COMMERCE





Northwest Pulp & Paper ASSOCIATION



OREGON'S LEADING VOICE FOR MANUFACTURING

OREGON MANUFACTURERS AND COMMERCE



OREGON BEER & WINE DISTRIBUTORS ASSOCIATION



Oregon Concrete & Aggregate PRODUCERS ASSOCIATION



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