

SB 815 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Joint Committee On Transportation

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Sub-Referral To: Joint Committee On Ways and Means

Meeting Dates: 2/7

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Appropriates \$6 million from the General Fund to the Department of Administrative Services for distribution to the Port of Cascade Locks for expenses relating to the seismic strengthening of the Bridge of the Gods. Declares emergency, effective July 1, 2023.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

The Bridge of the Gods is a two-lane, interstate steel truss cantilever bridge that spans between Cascade Locks, Oregon, and the North Bonneville area of Washington State. The bridge, constructed in 1926, is just under 1,900 feet in length, with 140 feet of river clearance. It stands as the only connection between State Route 14 in Washington and Interstate 84 in Oregon between the Glen Jackson Bridge in Portland and the Hood River-White Salmon Bridge in Hood River. The latter bridge, along with the Bridge of the Gods, are the only two toll facilities in the State of Oregon, the Bridge of the Gods assesses a toll of \$3 per vehicle, though vehicles outfitted with an RFID electronic toll device pay \$1.25, and larger trucks paying \$1/axle or \$7 for recreational vehicles and box trucks; toll revenues used for bridge maintenance.

Senate Bill 815 appropriates \$6 million to help pay for seismic strengthening to the Bridge of The Gods.