

SB 431 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, from the General Fund, \$125 million to the Department of Transportation for distribution to the Port of Hood River for construction of the Hood River-White Salmon Interstate Bridge. Declares emergency, effective July 1, 2023.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

The Hood River-White Salmon Interstate Bridge is a two-lane truss bridge that extends over 4,400 feet across the Columbia River, connecting the communities of Hood River, Oregon, and White Salmon, Washington. The bridge opened to traffic in 1924 as the Waucoma Interstate Bridge; a lift span was added in 1938 to the bridge to accommodate higher river levels following completion of the Bonneville Dam.

Today, the Hood River-White Salmon Interstate Bridge operates as a tolled facility (one of two in the State of Oregon), with vehicles assessed a toll ranging from 75 cents for motorcycles and \$2 for passenger vehicles to \$3 per axle for trucks. Tolls may be paid in cash or by electronic account. While the purpose of the tolls is to pay for ongoing maintenance, the bridge, in its current condition, is designated functionally obsolete and has a sufficiency rating of less than 10, with weight restrictions in place and special procedures to handle when large trucks cross. It has no bicycle or pedestrian capacity.

Senate Bill 431 appropriates \$125 million from the General Fund to the Port of Hood River to fund the reconstruction of the Hood River-White Salmon Interstate Bridge.