

CITY COUNCIL 555 Liberty St SE / Room 220 • Salem, OR 97301-3513 • 503-588-6255 • Fax 503-588-6354

February 2, 2023

Co-Chair Senator Gorsek Co-Chair Representative McLain Co-Vice Chair Senator Boquist Co-Vice Chair Representative Boshart Davis Members of the Joint Committee on Transportation Oregon State Capitol 900 Court Street NE Salem, Oregon 97301

Dear Co-Chair Gorsek, Co-Chair McLain, Co-Vice Chair Boquist, Co-Vice Chair Boshart Davis:

I'm writing on behalf of the Salem City Council in support of HB 2781, which would form a regional bridge district. HB 2781 authorizes, but does not require participation in, a bridge district to levy property taxes to plan, finance, construct, operate and maintain bridges over the Willamette River in the capital city region.

We need a regional body to govern this critical regional transportation infrastructure. This bill provides for the possibility of a future Willamette River crossing if and when the people living in the capital city region want it.

The City of Salem encourages your support for House Bill 2781.

Sincerely,

Mayor Chris Hoy City of Salem

cc: Salem Legislative Delegation