



April 27, 2023

Co-Chairs Representative Susan McLain and Senator Lew Frederick
Co-Vice Chairs Representative Shelly Boshart-Davis and Senator Brian Boquist
Members of the Joint Committee on Transportation

VIA OLIS

RE: Interstate Bridge Replacement Project

Co-Chairs McLain and Frederick, Co-Vice Chairs, Members of the Committee:

As you know, Washington County is the second largest county by population in the state and is part of the tri-County Metro region. Additionally, we are home to a number of industries that move goods throughout the region, nation, and world. Washington County residents, employees and businesses depend on a functional, multimodal, regional transportation system to enhance their economic, social and community well-being.

The I-5 Interstate Bridge is a critical part of the inter-state, state and region's transportation system. Traffic back-ups on the Interstate Bridge impact access between the County and Washington State, the Metro region, and the larger supply chain and markets. This does not just impact the ability of our goods to move through the system, it disconnects employees from their jobs, prevents service providers from getting to clients, and hinders people from connecting to the robust recreational opportunities in Washington County.

Not only is creating a design that can meet the demonstrated seismic, safety, multimodal and capacity needs a priority, but finding a path forward on funding is another key step in getting the project to construction so it can serve our community. The proposed financing package is needed to take advantage of the generational funding opportunity provided by the federal government to bring significant resources to the table for major projects like this bridge replacement. As fellow elected officials who understand the need to make sure our infrastructure is safe, resilient and meets capacity needs while also funding a variety of vital services needed by the community, we recognize the heavy lift this bill is undertaking to identify state resources to bring this project to fruition.

Washington County supports the efforts of the legislature to find the right funding resources that allow the state to meet multiple goals. With a truly functional, multi-modal regional and statewide transportation system that moves people, goods, and service providers throughout our region and between west coast ports and population centers, we can see increased opportunities

Board of County Commissioners

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for investment in our communities, economies, and services. We appreciate your efforts to continue this vital work and take advantage of the opportunity the federal government has provided in solving this infrastructure need.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Kathryn Harrington', is written in a cursive style.

Kathryn Harrington
Chair, on behalf of the Washington Board of County Commissioners

cc: Washington County Delegation