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- Clark County*
- Skamania County*
- Klickitat County*
- City of Vancouver*
- City of Camas*
- City of Washougal*
- City of Battle Ground*
- City of Ridgefield*
- City of La Center*
- Town of Yacolt*
- City of Stevenson*
- City of North Bonneville*
- City of White Salmon*
- City of Bingen*
- City of Goldendale*
- C-TRAN*
- Washington DOT*
- Port of Vancouver*
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- Port of Ridgefield*
- Port of Skamania County*
- Port of Klickitat*
- Cowlitz Indian Tribe*
- Metro*
- Oregon DOT*
- 14th Legislative District*
- 17th Legislative District*
- 18th Legislative District*
- 20th Legislative District*
- 49th Legislative District*

May 15, 2023

The Honorable Lew Frederick, Co-Chair
The Honorable Susan McLain, Co-Chair
The Honorable Brian Boquist, Co-Vice Chair
The Honorable Shelly Boshart Davis, Co-Vice Chair

RE: Support Funding for Hood River-White Salmon Interstate Bridge Construction (HB 3622)

I am offering comments and support on behalf of the Southwest Washington Regional Transportation Council (RTC), a WA state designated MPO/RTPO serving the counties of Clark, Skamania and Klickitat. These comments are offered in support of House Bill 3622.

RTC, in collaboration with government agency partners from Klickitat County, has been actively engaged in the planning and outreach involved with the planned replacement of the Hood River-White Salmon Interstate Bridge. Replacement of this interstate bridge is the top-ranking unfunded project priority within the RTC’s [Regional Transportation Plan for Klickitat County](#) (November 2018). The project is also identified as a top priority regional transportation investment priority within the 2022-2027 Columbia Gorge Economic Development Strategy.

Over the past several years, Washington and Oregon counterparts have worked diligently to develop a governance and funding plan for the planned bridge replacement. In 2022, Washington state’s Move Ahead Washington transportation funding act committed \$75 Million towards bridge construction. Through prior funding commitments and recent formation of the Hood River-White Salmon Bridge Authority, we are encouraged to witness the development of a truly bi-state project.

RTC supports the appropriation of \$125 Million in Oregon state funds this legislative session, which keeps the project on track, and creates fund leverage opportunities for pending grant applications. HB 3622 provides an essential investment into bi-state bridge infrastructure, enabling a safe and multi-modal connection, and promoting resiliency and economic prosperity within the Gorge region for years to come.

Sincerely

Matt Ransom
Executive Director