



**MEMORANDUM**

**TO:** Southwest Washington Regional Transportation Council Board of Directors  
**FROM:** Matt Ransom, Executive Director  
**DATE:** September 25, 2018   
**SUBJECT:** **Resolution Supporting the Replacement of the Interstate 5 Bridge between the State of Washington and the State of Oregon, Resolution 10-18-24**

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**ATA GLANCE**

*The RTC Board of Directors has longstanding policy in support of a regional priority project to replace the Interstate 5 bridges which cross over the Columbia River. The proposed Resolution advocates for advancing the identified regional project priority.*

**BACKGROUND**

At the August 7, 2018 RTC Board meeting, a Resolution was introduced for Board discussion by Board Vice-chair Mayor McEnerny-Ogle during meeting agenda topic: Other Business From the Board. The RTC Board was formally briefed on September 4, 2018, and moved that the proposed Resolution be considered for action at the October 2018 meeting. Since that time, several member agency jurisdictions to RTC have either adopted or are considering this same or a similar Resolution.

**POLICY DEVELOPMENT HISTORY AND CONTEXT**

Development of regional support for replacement of the I-5 Columbia River bridges has taken many forms. In recent years, the RTC Board has adopted policy and plans and ratified legislative statements which support replacement of the existing I-5 Columbia River bridges. Those policy endorsements have included:

Specific Study / Project / Resolution Endorsements:

- Resolution: I-5 Transportation and Trade Study (BR 12-02-25)
- Resolution: I-5 Columbia River Crossing Locally Preferred Alternative (BR 07-08-10)
- Resolution: I-5 Columbia River Crossing Final Environmental Impact Statement (BR 08-11-14)
- Resolution: Recommendation to the State of Washington that a Future I-5 Bridge Replacement Project be Designated as a Transportation Project of Statewide Significance (BR 02-17-03)
- Resolution: Supporting Clearing of Impediments in Law to Funding a Future I-5 Bridge Replacement Project (BR 02-17-04)

- Endorsement: Clark County Transportation Alliance 2018 Policy Statement (*identified I-5 Bridge Replacement and Corridor Enhancements as regional priority project*)

Specific Plan Approvals:

- Since 2008, the RTC Board has approved a Regional Transportation Plan which includes a specific project to replace the I-5 bridges.
- Between 2002 - 2008, the RTC's Metropolitan Transportation Plan: Strategic Plan Appendix included a recommendation to add capacity to the I-5 bridge(s).

**RESOLUTION**

The proposed Resolution is substantively the same resolution as was introduced for discussion at the September meeting. The proposed Resolution serves as a policy statement in support of action towards implementing a regional project which is identified in the current Regional Transportation Plan (2014).

As proposed, the Resolution would act as an RTC Board statement of support for advancing work towards implementation of the regional priority project.

**POLICY IMPLICATION**

RTC's regional transportation system policies and project priorities are expressed in the current Regional Transportation Plan (2014). The proposed Resolution is consistent with existing Regional Transportation Plan, which identifies a regional project priority for construction of an I-5 Bridge replacement project and regional transit improvements within the 20-year planning horizon.

Specific details and attributes of a future project (and or projects) would be developed in conjunction with forthcoming project planning and engineering studies, and disclosed during public review processes.

**BUDGET IMPLICATION**

None as Proposed. The proposed Resolution does not materially affect the RTC's current Work Program or Budget (2018). However, should funding be set aside for new project efforts related to an I-5 Bridge replacement project, then RTC staff would assess at that time the nature and scope of RTC's direct involvement in any future project effort.

**ACTION REQUESTED**

Adoption of Resolution 10-18-24: Resolution Supporting the Replacement of the Interstate 5 Bridge Between the State of Washington and the State of Oregon.

## **Southwest Washington Regional Transportation Council**

### **RESOLUTION 10-18-24**

A RESOLUTION supporting the replacement of the Interstate 5 Bridge between the State of Washington and State of Oregon, guided by the principles herein.

WHEREAS, Interstate 5 is a corridor of national significance that serves the entire west coast of the United States, as well as international commerce with Canada, Mexico, and all of the countries of the Pacific Rim that access US west coast sea ports; and

WHEREAS, the Interstate 5 Bridge is a key economic connector to two major ports and much of the industrial land in the Vancouver-Portland Metropolitan Region; and

WHEREAS, Interstate 5 between Vancouver, Washington and Portland, Oregon experiences some of the most severe congestion along the entire length of the Interstate 5 corridor, especially during the daily commuting periods, affecting travel time reliability and hindering the efficient movement of people and freight; and

WHEREAS, existing bi-state public transit service is inadequate to meet demand, and existing service operates in mixed-traffic, which has significant negative impacts on performance and operational outcomes; and

WHEREAS, high capacity transit does not currently connect Vancouver and Portland, and high capacity transit with a dedicated guideway would provide greatly improved transit service with much better schedule reliability and service than mixed-traffic operation; and

WHEREAS, frequent crashes on the corridor and on the Bridge itself affect public safety; and

WHEREAS, the existing Interstate 5 bridges are functionally obsolete and do not meet current seismic standards; and

WHEREAS, replacement of the Interstate 5 Bridge is needed to support critical trade routes, address congestion, provide transportation choices, and improve safety;

NOW, THEREFORE,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SOUTHWEST WASHINGTON REGIONAL  
TRANSPORTATION COUNCIL:

Section 1. The Southwest Washington Regional Transportation Council supports efforts to begin a new project development process for an Interstate 5 Bridge replacement, consisting of:

- a. A replacement bridge
- b. High capacity transit with a dedicated guideway

Section 2. The Southwest Washington Regional Transportation Council supports a multi-modal approach of highway, high-capacity transit, and bicycle and pedestrian improvements to support the region's travel needs.

Section 3. The Southwest Washington Regional Transportation Council urges Governor Jay Inslee and the Washington State Legislature to provide adequate funding to the Washington State Department of Transportation to materially advance project development for an Interstate 5 Bridge replacement.

ADOPTED this 2<sup>nd</sup> day of October 2018, by the Southwest Washington Regional Transportation Council.

SOUTHWEST WASHINGTON  
REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION COUNCIL

ATTEST:

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Ron Onslow  
Chair of the Board

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Matt Ransom  
Executive Director