



PORTLAND FREIGHT COMMITTEE

April 9, 2019

Kate Brown
Governor
State of Oregon
254 State Capitol
Salem, OR 97301-4047

Dear Governor Brown:

On behalf of the Portland Freight Committee we thank you for your leadership in requesting the Oregon Transportation Commission to work with the Oregon and Washington Departments of Transportation on restarting bi-state conversations for replacing the aging I-5 Columbia River bridge.

The Portland Freight Committee shares your concerns and sense of urgency for initiating the planning process to restart this vital bi-state transportation project. Interstate 5 serves as a major west coast trade corridor and the I-5 bridge is identified as a major freight bottleneck and seismically vulnerable structure. Increased population and employment growth will place even greater demand on this functional obsolete bridge corridor and further degrade our state's economic vitality and livability if action is not taken soon.

Replacing the I-5 bridge will address the second of two major freight bottlenecks in our region. The other being the I-5 Rose Quarter Project which is currently underway and funded in part through HB 2017.

The Portland Freight Committee strongly supports both these two critical regional transportation projects and we look forward in supporting your efforts in advancing these projects to completion.

Respectfully yours,

Pia Welch
Chair

CC Chris Warner, Acting Director, Portland Bureau of Transportation
Brandon Finn, Transportation Policy Advisor, Office of Governor Kate Brown
Rian Windsheimer, ODOT Region 1 Manager