



Oregon – Washington
Memorandum of Intent
on
Replacing the I-5 Bridge over the Columbia River

Whereas replacing the I-5 bridge over the Columbia River remains a high priority for Washington state and Oregon;

Whereas the current I-5 bridge is a major seismic risk and traffic bottleneck for the region and the entire nation;

Whereas, as governors of Oregon and Washington state, we have worked to align our states for a restart of the project, and community leaders from both sides of the Columbia river have expressed interest in coming back to the table;

Whereas Washington state and Oregon have allocated a combined \$44 million to reopen an office for the I-5 bridge project, and;

Whereas, we encourage the community to join us in advancing a bi-state effort that moves this critical project forward.

Now, therefore, be it resolved that:

We commit our states to the reopening of a joint Oregon-Washington state project office (project office) to replace the Interstate 5 bridge over the Columbia River.

The work of this project office should include, but is not limited to, the reevaluation of the purpose and need identified for the project previously known as the Columbia River Crossing, the reevaluation of permits and development of a finance plan, the reengagement of key stakeholders and the public, and the reevaluation of scope, schedule and budget for a reinvigorated bi-state effort for replacement of the Interstate 5 Columbia River bridge.

When reevaluating the finance plan for the project, the project office shall assume that some costs of the new facility may be covered by tolls.

Additionally, in reevaluating the project scope, the project office shall assume any plan for a new bridge will include high capacity transit.

The project office shall provide a draft progress report to the governors and the transportation committees of the legislatures of Washington state and Oregon by December 1, 2019, and a final report to the governors and the transportation committees of the legislatures of Oregon and Washington state by December 1, 2020.

Term and Effect

This MOI shall come into effect upon signature by the two parties and shall remain in effect for a period of five years and can be renewed or amended with the consent of the parties. Either party may decide to terminate the agreement by notifying the other party with three months' written notice.

Limitations

The undersigned signatories agree that this MOI shall have no legal effect or impose a legally binding obligation on either the State of Oregon or the State of Washington. Neither party shall be responsible for the actions of third parties who may participate in the activities outlined in this MOI.

Agreed, signed and dated in two originals in Vancouver, Washington, this 18th day of November, 2019.

Kate Brown, Governor
State of Oregon

Jay Inslee, Governor
State of Washington