



WE SUPPORT FEDERAL INFRASTRUCTURE INVESTMENTS IN THE I-205 BOTTLENECK PROJECT

June 16, 2021

We are requesting the Oregon Congressional Delegation’s full support to prioritize federal funding to seismically retrofit and widen the I-205 Abernethy Bridge over the Willamette River. Acting today ensures Phase 1 of this bottleneck project, one of many projects of regional and national significance in Oregon, can begin construction as early as 2022. Federal contribution will diversify the funds to construct this critical project now, and potentially prevent the need to toll the Abernethy Bridge years ahead of the implementation of a comprehensive regional pricing program.

The Abernethy Bridge is in need of vital seismic repairs and serves as a strategic link for freight transportation on the national interstate system providing a wide array of economic benefits to Clackamas County, the region, the State of Oregon, and the nation as a whole.

The proposed project will widen the I-205 Abernethy Bridge with an additional through-lane in each direction, eliminating a freight bottleneck on the I-205 corridor. Serving both Oregon and Washington residents and businesses, I-205 is predominantly six lanes for most of its 37-mile length. However, its southern-most section, which includes the Abernethy Bridge, reduces to only four lanes, creating bottleneck congestion in peak hours for commuters and freight users.

This project will provide enhanced freight mobility that will benefit the entire northwest. I-205 connects advanced manufacturing, high tech, forestry, agricultural, and distribution/shipping businesses in Clackamas County, Portland, and the Willamette Valley with major import-export facilities such as the Port of Portland, the Portland International Airport, and the Port of Tacoma. Improvements of the bottleneck at the I-205 Abernethy Bridge will benefit the businesses and their employees who depend on reliable movement of products to these freight facilities who do their part to strengthen the economy of Oregon and the Pacific Northwest.

Federal funding today can advance construction on the I-205 Abernethy Bridge and move the project to construction in early 2022. We are counting on your support for a project that will strategically enhance regional seismic stability and provide significant benefits to local and regional commuters, economic development, and West Coast freight mobility. We urge you to support this project, and thank you for your consideration of this request.