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PROPOSED

TOLL-FREE I-5 BRIDGE REPLACEMENT RESOLUTION NO. 2013-07-25

A Resolution to create a policy of the Board of Commissioners to support a proposed Toll-Free replacement of the I-5 Columbia River Bridge as defined in this resolution.

Because the Clark County Board of Commissioners represent the Citizens of Clark County as members of the governing body for C-Tran, the Southwest Washington Regional Transportation Council (RTC), and have representation on the Joint Policy Advisory Committee on Transportation (JPACT) and the Metropolitan Policy Advisory Committee (MPAC); and

Because the Clark County Board of Commissioners want to effectively determine citizen preferences as it relates to their authority as voting members of those Boards; and

Because over 11 years, 7,521 public comments, 1,276 public and citizen advisory committee meetings, 32,070 public comments, and \$170 million in transportation funds have already been invested in the Columbia River Crossing project that could be used to minimize more time, money, and process, by focusing on fixing problems at the existing I-5 Columbia River Bridge crossing; and

Because the existing I-5 Columbia River Bridge has 3 undersized lanes, no shoulders for emergency turnout, and interchanges surrounding it that require entering and exiting through lanes from a complete stop; and

Because the existing I-5 Columbia River Bridge was built in 1917 and 1958, for 2 lanes of travel each way, and does not meet current or future demands for Interstate service; and

Because the existing I-5 Columbia River Bridge and its approach sections experience crash rates more than two times higher than statewide averages for comparable facilities; and

Because any major transportation project should start by asking the people if they would support the proposed direction; and

Because the Clark County Board of Commissioners believes that the wishes of the electorate in this instance are best represented by a County-wide vote, which is referred to as an advisory vote; and

42 **Because** this matter was considered at a duly advertised public hearing, where the
43 Board of County Commissioners concluded that adoption of this policy would be in the
44 best interests of the public health, safety and welfare of the Citizens, now therefore:

45

46 **BE IT ORDERED AND RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY**
47 **COMMISSIONERS OF CLARK COUNTY, STATE OF WASHINGTON AS FOLLOWS:**

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49 **Section 1. Description of Proposal.** The Board shall adopt a policy supporting the
50 replacement of the existing I-5 Columbia River Bridge WHICH:

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52 would ensure that the total cost for the whole project be less than \$900 million including
53 all studies and planning, and the bridge must remain toll-free in order for the Board of
54 Commissioners to support the project; and

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56 would seek to minimize long term debt and work to achieve a toll-free project; and

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58 would replace the existing I-5 Columbia River Bridge; and

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60 would have at least 2 more travel lanes in each direction than the 3 on the existing I-5
61 bridge, to allow entering and leaving through lanes at speed instead of entering from a
62 complete stop; and

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64 would have travel lanes that are at least standard width to replace the narrow lanes on
65 the existing I-5 bridge; and

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67 would have adequate shoulder width for emergency turnouts to replace the lack of
68 shoulders on the existing I-5 bridge; and

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70 would contain paths for bicycles and pedestrians to replace the narrow paths on the
71 existing I-5 bridge; and

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73 would meet or exceed current Interstate bridge seismic safety requirements; and

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75 would provide enhanced connections for the two largest freight interchanges in the
76 Portland-Vancouver Metropolitan Region, which are located along I-5 near the existing
77 I-5 bridge; and

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79 would meet or exceed Columbia River ship navigation clearances already
80 accommodated by the high span and lift span of the existing I-5 Bridge; and

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82 would relieve traffic congestion on I-5 crossing the Columbia River; and
83
84 would be a model of integrity, transparency, forthrightness; and
85
86 would utilize open competitive proposals from a wide variety of private companies; and
87
88 would minimize the additional work done and the money spent by public agencies; and
89
90 would follow financial management and accounting practices recommended by
91 independent forensic accountants including periodic audits; and
92
93 would genuinely seek citizen input through open dialog and meaningful two-way
94 interactions; and
95
96 would, once a clear project is defined, including the financing plan, allow Clark County
97 citizens to voice their approval or rejection of the project in an election.
98

99 **Section 2. Effective Date.** This resolution shall be effective immediately after its
100 adoption.

101 **ADOPTED** this _____ day of _____, 2013.

Attest: Board of Clark County Commissioners:

Rebecca Tilton,
Clerk to the Board

Steve Stuart, Chair

Approved as to Form Only:
ANTHONY GOLIK

Tom Mielke, Commissioner

Clark Co. Prosecuting Attorney
By his Deputy, Lori L. Volkman

David Madore, Commissioner

