



October 21, 2021

Greg Johnson, Program Administrator  
Interstate Bridge Replacement Program

Re: October 21, 2021 Executive Steering Group Meeting

Dear Mr. Johnson:

Thank you for providing materials for the October 21<sup>st</sup> Executive Steering Group meeting. We appreciate the hard work you and the team have put into advancing the Interstate Bridge Replacement Program for the region. Given what a critical stage we are in and the items of concurrence proposed on the Agenda, we wanted to provide feedback in writing.

We recognize the goal to identify an IBRP Solution by early 2022. However, we are concerned about the design options analysis. As previously expressed, to get to the IBR Solution we cannot maintain the same highway and toll rate assumptions from the Columbia River Crossing – which is currently the case in the preliminary design options. To understand the effect of holistic design, analysis must include a review of the potential for high quality transit paired with congestion pricing at similar rates to other cities to effect transportation demand. This change in demand should inform bridge and highway design options. We urge the team to fully consider a holistic modeling and analysis approach, to ensure we can advance our shared goals as articulated in the Desired Outcomes, and to produce an evaluation supportive of the needs of decision-makers. Without this analysis, we do not feel we will have enough information to identify the best IBR solution nor answer the questions from our councils. ***We need to see analysis that looks at what is possible if we fully invest in transit capacity and access and integrate equitable congestion pricing.*** Our staff have previously shared the need for this modeling, analysis, and evaluation and remain prepared to engage and support the effort.

We want to be very clear about what we and our colleagues on the Metro Council and Portland City Council will need to make and support the necessary decisions to get us there:

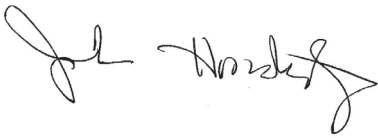
- **Design Options:** We support the technical work underway to develop and explore individual design options. However, we are concerned that under the current work plan elements will only be analyzed individually as if they do not influence each other (i.e., highway design, tolling, and transit options). Further, the modeling underway is critical to make informed decisions about the IBRP Solution and some significant base assumptions have not been adequately revisited. This will not produce the information we need to make decisions on major elements such as the number of lanes crossing the river. As mentioned above, we need to see analysis that looks at what is possible if we fully invest in transit capacity and access and integrate equitable congestion pricing.

- **Desired Outcomes:** we appreciate the collaboration between the IBR program and partners to gain consensus on Desired Outcomes. These statements are foundational to the work ahead and we look forward to incorporating any additional feedback provided by the Equity Advisory Group.
- **Screening Criteria:** we look forward to seeing how the screening criteria relate and support our ability to measure success against Desired Outcomes. We will need data from modeling, equity, and climate technical analysis to understand how options perform relative to screening criteria metrics and to identify tradeoffs.

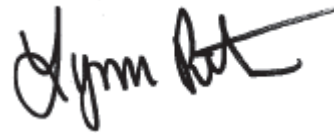
In sum, to reach an IBRP Solution together we need to develop and agree on screening criteria, develop and agree on alternatives, analyze and measure the alternatives against the criteria, and conduct an inclusive public outreach effort - one that gives the public sufficient time to weigh in on the results of the analysis. And agency partners need sufficient time for briefings with elected officials and public boards.

This project is very important to meet our region's needs. We look forward to partnering to move the project forward.

Sincerely,



Jo Ann Hardesty  
Commissioner, City of Portland



Lynn Peterson  
President, Metro Council

Cc: John Willis  
Frank Green  
Ray Mabey  
Chris Regan  
Debra Nudelman  
Millicent Williams  
Johnell Bell