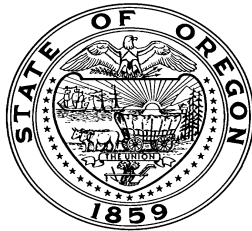


Paul L Evans
STATE REPRESENTATIVE
DISTRICT 20



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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Rep. Paul Evans Seeks Alternatives to Salem’s Rejected Third Bridge Proposal

SALEM—Following the Salem City Council’s decision on Monday to effectively end the current proposal for the Salem River Crossing, Rep. Paul Evans (D-Salem, Monmouth, Independence) has introduced legislation seeking an alternative approach.

HB 2974 authorizes the formation of a bridge district in the Capital City Region, consisting of Linn, Marion, Polk and Yamhill Counties. The Capital Region Special Bridge District would be allowed to levy property taxes for the purposes of planning, financing, constructing, operating, and maintaining bridges over the Willamette River in the Capital Region. The organization of this special district board would consist of five members (one elected from each county), with one member representing the Department of Transportation and appointed by the Governor.

“Our proposal seeks to address current and future congestion problems by placing a new tool in the hands regional leaders to enact a truly regional solution,” Rep. Evans said. “All of us who live in the Oregon Capital Region – the counties of Marion, Polk, Yamhill, and Linn – should have a role in developing a sustainable infrastructure system. This bill will give us a unique tool for a unique problem.”

For months, Evans has been researching a range of potential strategies for supporting continued growth and expanding the capacity of the current transportation infrastructure. He believes additional bridge or bridges are needed, but emphasized that it was Salem City Council’s responsibility, not the State’s, to address the outstanding land use questions and follow the process in place, which has now been concluded. Evans is working with regional leaders to find an alternative option that would allow the conversation to continue and new options to develop

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