



SENATE MAJORITY OFFICE

Oregon State Legislature

State Capitol

Salem, OR

NEWS RELEASE

March 4, 2013

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Senate Approves I-5 Bridge Replacement Project

HB 2800A will spur economic development while ensuring protections for taxpayers

SALEM – The Oregon Senate voted to approve the project to replace the Interstate 5 Bridge over the Columbia River today on a bipartisan 18-11 vote. Passage of HB 2800A sends a signal to Washington State and Washington, D.C. that Oregon is ready to move ahead on efforts to build a safer crossing and fix the bottleneck near the current bridge.

“We’re committed to building a safe river crossing for cars, bikes, pedestrians and light rail,” said Senator Lee Beyer (D-Springfield). “Replacing the bridge will create jobs and secure long-lasting economic advantages for the region into the future.”

Studies of the current I-5 bridge have shown that the current bridge is at significant risk of collapse during an earthquake and that it causes congestion and freight immobility. House Bill 2800A authorizes the Oregon Department of Transportation to finance and begin work on the I-5 replacement bridge. The project includes interchange upgrades, the extension of light rail service to Vancouver, and a new double-deck bridge.

“Building a safer bridge across the Columbia will benefit all of Oregon,” said Sen. Laurie Monnes Anderson (D-Gresham). “Wheat growers from Umatilla County, wineries from Southern Oregon, and truckers on Oregon’s highways are counting on less congestion and greater freight mobility to ensure that their product gets to market.”

The bill includes strict standards to ensure that Oregon doesn’t get left holding the bag. Additional provisions in HB 2800A ensure that our investment in the project is contingent on financial commitments from Washington State and the U.S. Department of Transportation.

House Bill 2800A will now move to Governor Kitzhaber’s desk for his approval.

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