

To Whom it May Concern,

My name is **[Your Name]**, from **[Organization Name]**. On behalf of **[Organization Name]**, I am submitting this letter to express our organization's strong support for the Locally Preferred Alternative (LPA) plan for the Interstate Bridge Replacement (IBR) Program, as opposed to a no-build scenario. We believe that this project is essential for ensuring the long-term mobility, safety, and economic prosperity of our region.

The current Interstate 5 bridge, a vital artery for both commuter and freight traffic in the Pacific Northwest region, is outdated and increasingly unreliable. As noted in the SEIS Report, congestion on the bridge frequently leads to delays, with over 143,000 vehicles crossing daily and enduring up to 10 hours of congestion during peak travel times. The new modes of transit, bicycle and pedestrian improvements, and auxiliary lanes proposed in the LPA are practical solutions that will help improve traffic flow, reduce bottlenecks, and increase efficiency.

Perhaps more notably, the seismic vulnerabilities of the current bridge present a grave risk to our communities and businesses. The LPA not only addresses this by proposing a new, seismically resilient bridge but also incorporates design improvements that will enhance safety for all users. The proposed auxiliary lanes will reduce accidents caused by narrow shoulders and sudden lane changes, improving the overall safety of the bridge. The LPA includes not only infrastructure for vehicles but also enhanced transit, pedestrian, and bicycle facilities. This multimodal approach will ensure that all members of our community, including those who rely on public transportation, have safe and reliable access to cross the Columbia River.

From an economic perspective, the auxiliary lanes are essential for supporting freight movement, a backbone of our local and regional economy. The I-5 corridor is a critical trade route, and delays caused by congestion and bridge lifts currently hinder the efficient movement of goods. By alleviating these issues, the LPA will help businesses operate more efficiently, reduce transportation and fueling costs, and maintain our region's competitiveness in both domestic and international markets. The LPA also promotes environmental sustainability by aiming to reduce congestion and vehicle emissions through improved traffic flow and expanded public transit options, including light rail.

In conclusion, **[Organization Name]** believes that the Locally Preferred Alternative addresses urgent safety, mobility, and economic needs in our region while laying the foundation for sustainable growth. We urge all stakeholders to support this critical investment in our future.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

**[Your Name, Organization]**