

May 2024

The 2023 Transportation Budget, ESHB 1125, requires the department to provide updates on the ongoing coordination with the state of Oregon regarding the new I-5 bridge over the Columbia River.

Section 305 (16) (c) reads:

The department shall provide regular updates on the status of ongoing coordination with the state of Oregon on any bistate agreements regarding sharing of revenues, use of revenues, and fiscal responsibilities of each state. Prior to finalizing any such agreement, the department shall provide a draft of the agreement to the transportation committees of the legislature for review and input. Additionally, the department shall advise on the status of any bistate agreements to the joint transportation committee beginning in September 2023 and quarterly thereafter until any agreements are finalized.

WSDOT's Report:

Representatives from the Washington Department of Transportation (WSDOT) and the Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) continued conversations about how to structure the flow of toll revenues for the Interstate Bridge Replacement Program (IBR).

The group working to establish this framework includes leadership from the two Departments of Transportation and the IBR program. The recently-announced change in toll administrator, from ODOT to WSDOT, led to the group reconsidering previous discussions, and the work is again proceeding as scheduled.

Completed during this reporting period:

- Held regular meetings to discuss considerations regarding toll revenue sharing.
- Met with representatives from Washington Office of the State Treasury.
- Continued discussions with AGO and DOJ.

Next steps:

- Continued bi-state and internal meetings.
- Revise work plan to meet specific milestones and deadlines for each department and the IBR program.
- Continued development of framework delineating:
 - Constitutional requirements for each state, where they align, and if/where they conflict.
 - How each state prefers for funds to be handled and transmitted.
 - Engagement of additional necessary parties.

If you have any questions about this effort, please reach out to Charla Skaggs, charla.skaggs@interstatebridge.org.