

August 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).

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.
- Met with ODOT to discuss legislative needs related to revenue sharing and finance tools.
- Determined constitutional requirements for each state as they pertain to the handling of public dollars.

Next steps:

- Continued bi-state and internal meetings.
- Continued development of framework delineating:
 - Preferred methodology for flow of funds.
 - 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.