



November 2023

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:

During Q1 2023, representatives from the Washington Department of Transportation (WSDOT) and the Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) restarted conversations about how to structure the flow of toll revenues for the Interstate Bridge Replacement Program (IBR). The two departments, along with representatives from Washington's Office of the Attorney General (AGO) and Oregon's Department of Justice (DOJ), are building on conversations that began in late 2022 and early 2023. As noted previously, there are multiple factors that must be considered within a bi-state environment, including constitutional requirements for each state.

The group working to establish this framework includes leadership from the two Departments of Transportation and the IBR program.

Completed during this reporting period:

- Established bi-monthly, bi-state meeting format and attendees.
- Held two meetings to discuss considerations and actions from the 2023 legislative session.
- Established bi-monthly meeting format and attendees internal to each department.
- Began discussions with AGO and DOJ.

Next steps:

- Continued bi-state and internal meetings.
- 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.