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## Columbia River CROSSING



# Project update

March 1, 2013

## Oregon Legislature considers funding bill for I-5 bridge replacement

A bill to provide Oregon's share of construction funding for the Columbia River Crossing project gained approval by the state House of Representatives Monday and now moves to the state Senate the week of March 4. Oregon House Bill 2800 declares the Interstate 5 bridge replacement project is in the state's interest, authorizes construction funding through bonding and establishes conditions under which those bonds may be authorized. More information is available [here](#). House Bill 2800 can be found [online](#).

## Oregon governor praises bridge vote from Washington D.C. transportation meeting

Oregon Gov. John Kitzhaber this week commended the Oregon House for its bipartisan vote in support of HB 2800, which authorizes bond funding for Oregon's share of the Interstate 5 bridge replacement. The Governor made his statement while in Washington, D.C., where he was meeting with U.S. Department of Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood and Washington Gov. Jay Inslee about moving forward on the project.

"The vote in the House today is an important step forward for our state and the Pacific Northwest economy," said Gov. Kitzhaber on Feb. 25. "By investing in a safe and effective transportation system for Oregon, we are providing a safer and less congested trip for freight and commuters. It is time that we build this bridge."

In recent conversations, Secretary LaHood and Homeland Security Secretary Napolitano have reaffirmed the federal government's strong support for the project. In Monday's meeting with federal partners and Gov. Inslee, Gov. Kitzhaber reported in on Oregon's progress on funding Oregon's share of the project.

## CRC submits General Bridge Permit application to U.S. Coast Guard




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## Oregon and Washington transportation commissions approve interstate tolling agreement

In late 2012, the Oregon and Washington transportation commissions approved the interstate tolling intergovernmental agreement for the CRC project. Both commissions voted unanimously to approve this agreement to continue working collaboratively on the rate setting process.

The intergovernmental agreement reflects a bi-state structure for shared state responsibility and risk. The two commissions will create a subcommittee to determine toll-setting

The Columbia River Crossing project submitted its General Bridge Permit application to the U.S. Coast Guard Jan. 30, 2013. The application is for a replacement Interstate 5 bridge with 116 feet of navigational clearance.

Within 30 days USCG will finish its completion review and request additional information if needed. Before making a permit decision, there will be an opportunity for public review and comment. The project schedule relies on a permit decision by Sept. 30, 2013.

More information available [online](#).

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### Sequestration unlikely to affect CRC

Sequestration should not affect the CRC's ability to secure \$850 million in FTA funding, if the states move forward on the schedule that is before them. If we delay, there is more of a chance of being impacted.

The FTA program will be cut by about 6%, and this cut will not affect funds for CRC if we proceed with our Full Funding Grant Application timeline. Our current place in line for FTA New Starts funds puts us next in line for funding. Other projects that have not advanced as far in the New Starts application process are more likely to be affected.

details. The rate setting process will engage both this sub-committee and the total membership of both commissions, with rate selection requiring a majority vote of each commission. Prior to setting toll rates, the commissions will engage in public outreach and education activities.

The [tolling process agreement](#) is available online.

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