

May 2026

The 2026 Supplemental Transportation Budget, ESSB 6005, 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 304 (16) (b) reads:

The department shall provide regular updates on the status of ongoing coordination with the state of Oregon on any bistrate 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 continue to advise quarterly on the status of any bistrate agreements to the joint transportation committee 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).

Continued coordination during this reporting period:

- Held regular meetings to discuss considerations regarding toll revenue sharing.
- Met with representatives from Washington Office of the State Treasurer and the Oregon State Treasury.
- Continued discussion of different approaches to revenue sharing and accounts set-up with relevant WSDOT staff to ensure a clear protocol for IBR toll revenues.
- Briefings on bond authorization legislation and revised account structure given bistrate nature of IBR.
- Continued review and discussion of the draft IBR Toll Program toll revenue waterfall amongst WSDOT and ODOT financial staff and the Washington State Office of the Attorney General and the Oregon Department of Justice.

New updates for this reporting period:

- Revised the draft IBR toll agreements to a new format to promote ease of review, execution, and amendment. Circulated new drafts for legal review with the Washington State Office of the Attorney General and the Oregon Department of Justice. The goal is to have agreements completed one year prior to the start of tolling.
- Continued discussion with the Washington State Office of the Attorney General and the Oregon Department of Justice on statutory authority conflicts and opportunities regarding bistrate tolling.

- Coordinated with ODOT on potential legislative updates to support their process for enforcing toll payments for both Oregon and Washington residents in a consistent manner across both states.

Next steps:

- Continued bistrate and internal meetings.
- Continued discussions with ODOT regarding financing tools.
- Continued development of framework delineating:
 - Preferred methodology for flow of funds.
 - How each state prefers funds to be handled and transmitted.
 - Engagement of additional necessary parties.
- Continued engagement with Office of the State Treasurer and the Oregon State Treasury regarding preferred account structure.
- Continued engagement with the Washington State Office of the Attorney General and the Oregon Department of Justice.

If you have any questions about this effort, please reach out to Kate Elliott, kate.elliott@interstatebridge.org.

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