

**Interstate Bridge Replacement Program
Portland, Oregon and Vancouver, Washington
New Starts Project Development
Information Prepared September 2023**

The Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT), the designated representative for the multi-state Interstate Bridge Replacement Program (IBR) Team, proposes to replace the aging Interstate 5 (I-5) bridge across the Columbia River with a modern, seismically resilient, multimodal structure, featuring designated right of way for Light Rail Transit (LRT) and dedicated Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) on shoulder facilities. The LRT corridor would extend from the present Expo Center station in Portland, Oregon across the river to Evergreen Boulevard in Vancouver, Washington, and would include three new stations. Bus-on-shoulder facilities would upgrade Express Bus services across the river as well. The Project also would provide connections from Portland's MAX LRT system to Vine BRT routes on the Vancouver side of the river. The estimated capital cost of the transit portion of the Project is \$1.8 billion (of a total project cost of \$6 billion), with the amount of CIG New Starts funding yet to be determined.

WSDOT believes that the project would improve mobility along the I-5 corridor by addressing present and future travel demand, which is expected to increase. The proposed transit improvements will efficiently link the two regional transit system networks, providing more options for travelers to access reliable transit service between Vancouver and Portland and providing significant enhancement to regional mobility for transit-dependent residents of the region.

WSDOT and the IBR Team members selected the locally preferred alternative (LPA) in July 2022 and anticipate incorporating the LPA into the two regional long-range transportation plans in late 2023. WSDOT anticipates the team completing the environmental review process in late 2024 and entering the Engineering phase in mid-2025. WSDOT further anticipates receive a New Starts Full Funding Grant Agreement in late 2027 or early 2028 and initiating revenue service in early 2033.