

PORT OF HOOD RIVER
Resolution No. 2022-23-13

**A RESOLUTION COMMENCING PUBLIC PROCESS FOR FUNDING
HOOD RIVER WHITE SALMON BRIDGE AUTHORITY ACTIVITIES**

WHEREAS, the Hood River White Salmon Interstate Bridge ("Bridge") is a critical transportation facility in the Mid-Columbia Region, and the Port of Hood River ("Port") must manage, maintain, inspect, and operate the Bridge in a safe manner for the long-term use of residents, visitors, and businesses; AND

WHEREAS, the Bridge is beyond its design life, is functionally obsolete and insufficient for modern vehicle and marine freight configurations, and must be replaced as soon as possible; AND

WHEREAS, in January of 2021, the Port of Hood River and its partners the City of Hood River, Hood River County, City of Bingen, City of White Salmon, and Klickitat County formed the Bistate Working Group ("Working Group"), as a policy advisory committee to the Port Commission for all matters related to bridge replacement; AND

WHEREAS, the 81st State of Oregon Legislative Assembly during their 2022 Regular Session passed House Bill 4089 establishing statutory framework for local governments in Oregon and Washington to enter into a commission formation agreement to create a bistate governance commission to oversee construction, maintenance, repair, operation, renewal, financing and refinancing of new interstate toll bridge across the Columbia River; AND

WHEREAS, the 67th State of Washington Legislature during their 2022 Regular Session passed Substitute Senate Bill 5558, an Act relating to the bistate governance of interstate toll bridges owned by local governments; amending RCW 47.56.860; and adding a new chapter to Title 47 RCW that authorizes local governments to enter into a commission formation agreement to form and charter a commission for the independent bistate governmental authority with sufficient powers to efficiently and equitably develop, operate, maintain, toll, and finance the replacement bridge; AND

WHEREAS, at their February 21, 2023 Regular Session, the Port approved signing the Hood River White Salmon Bridge Authority Commission Formation Agreement; AND

WHEREAS, the Hood River White Salmon Bridge Authority ("Bridge Authority") is expected to begin operations on July 1, 2023; AND

WHEREAS, the Port is committed to ensuring the Bridge Authority can perform all activities needed for the successful completion of the project by its stated goal of October 2029; AND

WHEREAS, on February 6, 2023, the Working Group received the reported results of the Washington State Transportation Commission Traffic & Revenue Study that provided two scenarios to provide the necessary toll revenues for the Bridge Authority activities, including for the purpose of capitalizing reserves for federal toll bonds; AND

WHEREAS, the Working Group anticipates the project will need to raise \$70 - \$150 million in locally sourced funding to complete the project funding package; AND

WHEREAS, on April 3, 2023, the Working Group recommended the Port implement a toll increase rate schedule and timeline that would provide the adequate funding for the Bridge Authority activities; AND

WHEREAS, on April 4, 2023, the Port approved Resolution 2022-23-11 establishing a toll revenue use policy that would dedicate all toll revenues to only those costs associated with bridge operations, maintenance, repair, and replacement only by June 30, 2028; AND

WHEREAS, the Port seeks to implement the toll increase dedicated to the Hood River White Salmon Bridge Authority effective September 1, 2023; AND

WHEREAS, the incremental toll revenue from the 2023 toll increase will be placed in a separate fund to be used only for the payment of any expenditures associated with the Hood River-White Salmon Replacement Bridge; AND

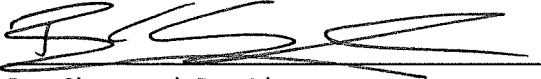
WHEREAS, the Port and the Working Group agree that a public process is necessary to move forward with approval and implementation of the toll increase to provide adequate opportunity for public input and delivery of public information; NOW, THEREFORE

THE PORT OF HOOD RIVER BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS RESOLVES AS FOLLOWS:

The Port of Hood River staff and contract consultants from HNTB and JLA, in collaboration with the public officials currently serving on the Bistate Working Group, and in partnership with the Hood River White Salmon Bridge Authority upon its establishment, will immediately commence development and deployment of a public input process focused on providing funding for the Hood River White Salmon Bridge Authority activities and the toll increase rates, rules, and timeline for implementation.

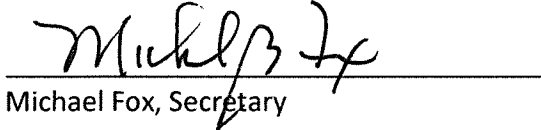
Adopted by the Board of Commissioners of the Port of Hood River this 18th day of April, 2023.

SIGNED

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'B Sheppard', written over a horizontal line.

Ben Sheppard, President

ATTEST

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Michael Fox', written over a horizontal line.

Michael Fox, Secretary