



ROSE CITY YACHT CLUB

3737 N.E. MARINE DRIVE • PORTLAND, OREGON 97211

AFFILIATED WITH THE COLUMBIA RIVER YACHTING ASSOCIATION

July 10, 2026

Commander (dpw), Thirteenth Coast Guard District
915 2nd Ave, Rm 3510
Seattle, WA 98174

Dear Sir or Madam,

Rose City Yacht Club submits these comments in response to U.S. Coast Guard Public Notice DNW-PN-01-26 – Application Received for the Replacement of the I-5 Twin Bridges between Portland OR and Vancouver WA.

Rose City Yacht Club was established in 1932. The Club is located on the Columbia River between the I-205 and I-5 bridges near Portland International Airport. Our moorage includes slips for 150 boats, most of which are sailboats between 30 and 45 feet in length with mast heights varying from 35 to 60 feet above the water.

The proposed construction plan would have substantial adverse impacts on navigation for our members. The construction period has a duration of seven years. The plan provides adequate accommodation for sailboat transit for much of this seven-year period. However, there is a period of 17 months anticipated to be from November 2029 to April 2031, during which only the primary channel will be open. During this period sailboats requiring 39 feet or more clearance (above low water) will need a bridge opening. During periods of higher water, the clearance would be reduced and additional sailboats would require a bridge lift. Virtually all our member sailboats will be unable to transit the bridge without the bridge being lifted.

The current number of member sailboats participating in cruises down river of the I-5 bridge is 14 to 25 per cruise. RCYC has three to four downriver cruises each year. In addition to organized cruises there are members who head down river because there are many more cruising destinations downriver of the I-5 bridge than above it. There also are several downriver races each year and RCYC has a good number of racers. Traffic would be highest in the months of May through September. Weekday traffic is less than weekend traffic but there will still be times during the week when our member sailboats will transit

the bridge. A good approximation of the number of boats needing an I-5 lift would be the number of boats transiting (or the number of bridge swings) at the BN Vancouver Columbia River Railroad bridge.

We urge the USCG to establish permit requirements that would require fixed times for bridge lifts that would facilitate navigation for recreation boaters on weekend days and holidays. For example, bridge lifts could be required at 10:00, 13:00, 15:00, 17:00, and 19:00. This would allow recreation boaters to plan their transit and assemble prior to the scheduled bridge lift. We suggest that such a plan be in effect for the months of May through September during the period when navigation is limited to the primary channel.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments and for your service to navigation on the Columbia River.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Bruce Newton". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Bruce" and last name "Newton" clearly distinguishable.

Bruce Newton
Commodore