



Coast Guard District Northwest
915 2nd Ave, Room 3510
Seattle, WA 98174
Submitted via d13-smb-d13-bridges@uscg.mil

Dear Commander Harris:

On behalf of The Northwest Seaport Alliance (NWSA) and Port of Seattle, we are submitting comments today in support of the Interstate Bridge Replacement Program's (IBR) proposed fixed span configuration over the Columbia River.

The NWSA is a unique partnership formed in 2015 between the ports of Tacoma and Seattle to jointly manage our marine cargo facilities. We are the premier container gateway in the Pacific Northwest and also have substantial breakbulk, auto, military, and project cargo operations. The Port of Seattle is a special purpose government representing the people of King County. Port of Seattle manages Seattle-Tacoma International Airport (SEA Airport), two cruise terminals, several recreational boating and commercial fishing marinas, and an extensive industrial/ commercial real estate portfolio including a grain cargo terminal.

Freight mobility is critical to the Pacific Northwest economy and the tens of thousands of jobs that rely on international trade in Washington, Oregon, and beyond. The Interstate 5 corridor is a key route for freight traveling in and out of our port gateways, specifically for Oregon agricultural exports to reach the Puget Sound.

A fixed-span bridge will be a significant benefit to the freight industry by reducing congestion and travel delays while improving the predictability and long-term reliability of traveling on I-5. Uninterrupted highway connectivity is essential for intermodal operations at ports and throughout the supply chain. Reduced idling during bridge lifts also reduces air pollution, improving air quality for nearby communities.

We appreciate the extensive outreach and communication USCG has done with the freight transportation stakeholders that both use the bridge and pass underneath it. The entire region stands to benefit from the bridge being replaced as soon as possible.

Sincerely,

Geraldine H. Poor
Regional Transportation Senior Manager
Port of Seattle

Deirdre Wilson
Director, Planning & Permitting
The Northwest Seaport Alliance