

PORT OF HOOD RIVER
Resolution No. 2023-24-1

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING A BRIDGE TOLL INCREASE

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 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, on December 6, 1994, the Port Commission approved Resolution No. 1994-1995-3 which increased the cash toll from \$.50 per axle to \$.75 per axle, with the sole purpose of additional revenue to fund the Bridge Fund, excepting some restrictive discounted tickets; AND

WHEREAS, an engineering assessment completed in 2011 and updated in 2023 demonstrated that capital and operational expenditures to keep the existing Bridge in good repair, safe, and operational, will continue to increase significantly; AND

WHEREAS, on October 18, 2011, the Port Commission approved Resolution No. 2011-12-1 which increased cash tolls to \$1 and increased the electronic tolls to \$.80 effective January 1, 2012, and dedicated the increase to the Bridge Fund; AND

WHEREAS, in 2016 the Port commenced a sustained effort to construct a new bridge as soon as reasonably possible, and in July 2017 obtained a financial commitment from the Oregon Legislature to complete a Final Environmental Impact Statement and carry out other pre-construction efforts to identify the most appropriate method for financing and developing of a new Bridge; AND

WHEREAS, on December 5, 2017, the Port Commission approved Resolution No. 2017-18-2 which increased cash tolls to \$2 and increased the electronic tolls to \$1 effective February 1, 2018, to meet the increasing costs for repair and capital upgrades to the existing bridge as well as future efforts to replace the Bridge; AND

WHEREAS, on February 6, 2023, the Bi-State Working Group (BSWG) 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 Hood River White Salmon

Bridge Authority (HRWSBA) activities, including for the purpose of capitalizing reserves for federal toll bonds; AND

WHEREAS, the BSWG 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 BSWG recommended the Port implement a toll increase rate schedule and timeline that would provide the adequate funding for the HRWSBA activities; AND

WHEREAS, on April 18, 2023, the Port approved Resolution 2022-23-13 directing staff and consultants to work with the BSWG to deploy a public input process focused on providing funding for the HRWSBA and to prepare a toll increase to be in effect by September 1, 2023; AND

WHEREAS, the Port’s Budget Committee met on May 2nd and approved the budget, as amended, including the addition of a Bi State Bridge Replacement Fund created to set aside an anticipated toll increase to fund the HRWSBA; AND

WHEREAS, the BSWG held public open houses in White Salmon on May 31st and Hood River on June 7th and a public outreach summary was shared with the BSWG and the Port Commission afterwards; AND

WHEREAS, the Bi State Working Group (BSWG) recommended the rates identified in this resolution be adopted by the Port Commission; NOW, THEREFORE

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

Section 1. The Board of Commissioners authorizes a toll increase dedicated to build required cash reserves for federal bridge financing effective September 1, 2023.

VEHICLE TYPE	CURRENT		SEPT. 1, 2023	
	Cash	BreezeBy	Cash	BreezeBy
Motorcycle	\$1.00	\$0.75	\$3.00	\$1.50
Autos/Pickups	\$2.00	\$1.00	\$3.50	\$1.75
Commercial Trucks/Vans	\$6.00	\$4.00	\$8.00	\$6.00
3 Axle Truck	\$9.00	\$6.00	\$12.00	\$9.00
4 Axle Truck	\$12.00	\$8.00	\$16.00	\$12.00
5 Axle Truck	\$15.00	\$10.00	\$20.00	\$15.00
For each additional axle	+\$3.00	+\$2.00	+\$4.00	+\$3.00

Section 2. The incremental toll revenue from this 2023 toll increase will be placed in the separate Bi State Bridge Replacement Fund.

Section 3. This Resolution makes no changes to the Video Toll ancillary fees and toll billing cycle timeline set in Resolution No. 2019-20-5, Resolution No. 2019-20-6, and Resolution No. 2022-23-4.

Adopted by the Board of Commissioners of the Port of Hood River this 11th day of July 2023.

SIGNED

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Kristi Chapman
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Kristi Chapman, President

ATTEST

DocuSigned by:
Mike Fox
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Michael Fox, Secretary