

BEFORE THE METRO COUNCIL

FOR THE PURPOSE OF ENDORSING) RESOLUTION NO. 08-3917
MULTNOMAH COUNTY'S BRIDGE SAFETY)
FUNDING BALLOT MEASURE) Introduced by Councilor President Bragdon

WHEREAS, the Portland Metro region is a transportation-dependent region; and

WHEREAS, Metro is updating its Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) to frame the region's transportation agenda through year 2035; and

WHEREAS, the updated RTP has identified a shortfall to build the new transit and roadway infrastructure that will be needed for an efficient transportation system that will allow for the economic vitality and environmental health of the region; and

WHEREAS, it is critical that the region maintain its existing infrastructure as well as build new transportation infrastructure; and

WHEREAS, the Sellwood Bridge across the Willamette River has been identified by engineers as a critically deficient bridge on the federal bridge rating scale; and

WHEREAS, other bridges around the region are in need of ongoing maintenance; and

WHEREAS, Multnomah County is currently undertaking an Environmental Impact Statement to rehabilitate or replace the Sellwood Bridge; and

WHEREAS, the cost to repair or replace the bridge is estimated to exceed \$300 million; and

WHEREAS, Multnomah County is proposing to secure federal, state and local revenues to rehabilitate or construct a new Sellwood Bridge; and

WHEREAS, Multnomah County is proposing to place a \$24 countywide vehicle registration fee on the May or November, 2008, ballot; and

WHEREAS, Multnomah County proposes to dedicate 100 percent of the revenue from such fee to reconstruction and/or maintenance of the Willamette River bridges; and

WHEREAS, Multnomah County is committed to establishing an oversight committee to ensure that collected revenues are used only for the purposes agreed to under an Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA); and

WHEREAS, Multnomah County is committed to working with local partners to develop a broader, long-term strategy for funding a multimodal transportation system; and

WHEREAS, Multnomah County is required by OR 801.041(7) to enter into an IGA with Metro and other local governments that grants Multnomah County the right to establish and collect such fee; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED that the Metro Council:


1. Recognizes that it is critically important to replace or maintain the Willamette River bridges.
2. Authorizes the Chief Operating Office to enter into an Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) pursuant to ORS 801.041 with Multnomah County permitting the county to establish and collect a countywide vehicle registration fee subject to voter approval to maintain or reconstruct the Willamette River bridges. The execution of the agreement is authorized provided that the fee be subject to voter approval in either May or November 2008, be limited to a 20 year period, be in an amount not to exceed \$24 a year, and be dedicated to the maintenance or reconstruction of the Willamette River bridges.
3. Commits to on-going collaboration with all jurisdictions across the region on transportation funding issues in 2008 and beyond.

ADOPTED by the Metro Council this 14th day of February 2008.

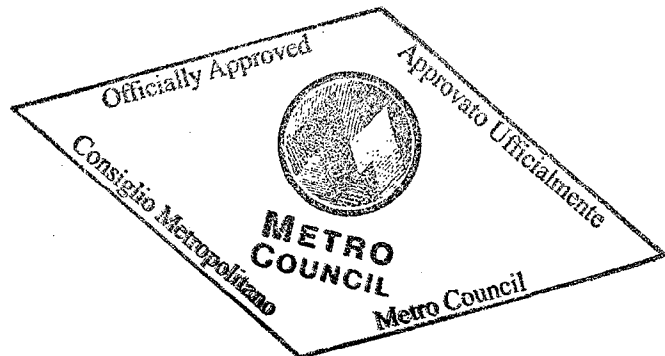


David Bragdon, Council President

Approved as to Form:



for Daniel B. Cooper, Metro Attorney



STAFF REPORT

IN CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTION NO. 08-3917, FOR THE PURPOSE OF ENDORING MULTNOMAH COUNTY'S WILLAMETTE RIVER BALLOT MEASURE

Date: January 29, 2008

Prepared by: Tim Collins

BACKGROUND

Multnomah County operates and maintains six Willamette River Bridges: Sellwood, Hawthorne, Morrison, Burnside, Broadway and Sauvie Island. Multnomah County's Capital Improvement Plan identifies:

- A 20-year need of approximately \$621 million, which includes rehabilitating or replacing the Sellwood Bridge, as well as maintaining the remaining bridges.
- Revenues for the next 20 years are approximately \$131 million, leaving a shortfall of approximately \$490 million.

The rehabilitation or replacement of the Sellwood Bridge is the county's highest priority for transportation funding. The Sellwood Bridge is the busiest two-lane bridge in Oregon, with over 30,000 vehicles crossing daily. The Sellwood Bridge is weight limited (10 tons) and buses, emergency vehicles and freight traffic are restricted from using it. The bridge has a federal adequacy rating of only 2 on a scale of 1 to 100.

Apart from the Sauvie Island Bridge that is currently being replaced, the age of the remaining Willamette River Bridges ranges from 50 years to 98 years, each requiring ongoing capital maintenance. In order to address the lack of funding, Multnomah County's Board of Commissioners is proposing a countywide vehicle registration fee (VRF) of \$24 per year per vehicle, which would be on the countywide ballot in May or November 2008. The VRF would be dedicated solely to the maintenance and/or reconstruction/replacement of Willamette River Bridges.

The county is working aggressively with federal, regional and state partners to secure funding for the Sellwood Bridge:

- Local funds are needed to obtain federal, regional and state dollars. The VRF will generate the county's local contribution of \$100 million toward an estimated total cost of more than \$300 million.
- The county desires to have its local match secured in order to be in a better position to secure federal dollars in the transportation reauthorization bill, which will be passed by Congress in 2009. Without a local match, the county may miss this opportunity and will need to wait until 2015 before the next federal reauthorization funding cycle.

The VRF would generate approximately \$13 million per year of revenue, and would sunset after 20 years. These funds will allow the county to generate \$100 million for the replacement of the Sellwood Bridge and address a portion of the maintenance issues on the county's remaining five Willamette River Bridges. If the countywide ballot measure passes, an independent oversight function would be established to ensure that collected revenues are used only for the purposes established by the measure.

The attached resolution authorizes the Council President to enter into an intergovernmental agreement (IGA) with Multnomah County that would grant the county the right to establish and collect a VRF.

ANALYSIS/INFORMATION

1. **Known Opposition** None known at this time.
2. **Legal Antecedents** Consistent with Resolution No. 00-2969B, "For the Purpose of Adopting the 2000 Regional Transportation Plan as the Federal Metropolitan Transportation Plan", adopted by the Metro Council, on August 10, 2000 and Resolution No. 03-3380A, "For the Purpose of Designation of the 2004 Regional Transportation Plan as the Federal Metropolitan Transportation Plan to Meet Federal Planning Requirements", adopted by the Metro Council on December 11, 2003.
3. **Anticipated Effects** Adoption of this resolution will authorize the Council President to enter into an IGA with Multnomah County. If the ballot measure is successful, Multnomah County would have a portion of the anticipated \$300+ million required to rehabilitate or reconstruct the Sellwood Bridge and address a portion of the maintenance needs for the remaining Willamette River bridges. The county would still need to secure other funding sources in order to reconstruct the Sellwood Bridge.
4. **Budget Impacts** None.

RECOMMENDED ACTION

Metro staff recommends the approval of Resolution No. 08-3917.