

Purpose and Need Statement

The Purpose and Need identifies the transportation problems that the program must address.

Developing the Purpose and Need is critical to program progress because it is:

- ▶ A way to concisely define what the proposed program is intended to accomplish
- ▶ An opportunity for the community to identify current and future issues and deficiencies within the program area
- ▶ Defines the program's primary objective
- ▶ Is used to help identify possible solutions
- ▶ A requirement for obtaining federal approval during the environmental process

Who decides? And when?

The Purpose and Need statement is currently being updated with the goal to finalize in May 2021. This update is considering changes in today's conditions compared to the prior planning work and whether we will need to modify, add, or delete any of the previously identified problem statements.

Recommendations from the program's steering and advisory groups, along with input from the public, will help inform these important program elements.

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Problems we still face



Seismic vulnerability:

In a major earthquake, the bridge would likely be substantially damaged, potentially beyond repair.



Bike & pedestrian paths:

Narrow shared-use paths, low railing heights and proximity to travel lanes impede safe travel.



Public transportation:

Limited transit options and existing bus service can be unreliable due to traffic congestion and/or bridge lifts.



Safety: Narrow lanes, no shoulders, poor sight distances, bridge lifts, and substandard ramp merging and diverging contribute to crashes.



Freight movement:

Congestion and bridge lifts slow down freight carrying goods to and from Ports and along I-5, a critical economic trade route on the west coast.



Congestion: Over 138,000 vehicles crossed the Interstate Bridge each week day in 2018, resulting in 7 to 10 hours of congestion during peak travel times.

OREGON

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WASHINGTON

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