

RESOLUTION NO. 25-001

A RESOLUTION of the City Council of the City of Camas, Washington opposing any extension of Light Rail as part of the I-5 Interstate Bridge Replacement project.

WHEREAS, the City of Camas believes it is critically important to replace the I-5 Interstate Bridge given its age and condition, which acts to impede private and commercial traffic capacity and creates potential hazards for all commuters, including residents of the City; and

WHEREAS, the proposed I-5 Interstate Bridge Replacement project (IBR Project) includes an extension of Light Rail (LRT) some 9,690 feet from Delta Park to downtown Vancouver; and

WHEREAS, the documented cost of the LRT component of the IBR Project would require \$2,000,000,000 for capital infrastructure; and

WHEREAS, in addition \$21,790,090 is anticipated to be expended for the annual operating expenses of LRT upon completion, of which \$1,551,920 must be paid by C-TRAN and the municipalities which support it, including Camas, through their continuing .7% sales tax contribution; and

WHEREAS, the annual operating expense obligation is expected to increase, with the sales tax contribution of the municipalities to rise to a minimum of .9% sales tax revenue or more; and

WHEREAS, C-TRAN, supported by the tax dollars of the City of Camas and other municipalities, currently provides public transportation services over the I-5 Interstate Bridge which have been operated in an efficient and effective manner; and

WHEREAS, the C-TRAN services in this area and for Clark County in general provide flexible and frequent routes for our residents using a variety of vehicles and propulsion modes

that are responsive to current and future ridership needs, all in compatibility with the vehicular infrastructure which will be part of and developed for the IBR Project; and

WHEREAS, maintaining the current level of service in the operations of C-TRAN over the I-5 Interstate Bridge would not require any special engineering or vehicular weight considerations absent the inclusion of the LRT component; and

WHEREAS, the LRT component of the IBR Project is further superfluous to the actual needs of our community, given the historically low ridership on the C-TRAN Commuter Express to downtown Portland due to multiple factors including decreased downtown employment, high commercial vacancy rates, shifting business and work patterns, increased remote work opportunities and increased employment opportunities present in Clark County, all of which do not support a Light Rail project that was designed to support an anticipated rise in ridership; and

WHEREAS, in the event C-TRAN ridership in the I-5 corridor does in fact increase in the future, there are cost-effective, flexible resources which would be readily engaged to support it, without the necessity of any Light Rail component; and

WHEREAS, as relates the residents of Camas and their adjacency to the I-205 Bridge, which cannot support Light Rail infrastructure, the perceived benefit of LRT as part of the IBR Project is limited to the I-5 corridor only; and

WHEREAS, at a time when all governmental budgets are under scrutiny, with significant competition for resources related to providing the core functions essential to our residents, the Camas City Council is united in concluding that the capital and maintenance costs of the LRT component of the IBR Project is too burdensome to our city and residents, would provide little to no benefit now or in the future, and should not be included as part of the IBR Project.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by the Council of the City of Camas as follows:

Section I

The City states its opposition to the Light Rail extension as part of the I-5 Interstate Bridge Replacement project and urges this component to be removed in its entirety.

ADOPTED at a regular meeting of the Council of the City of Camas, this 3rd day of February, 2025.

SIGNED: _____
Mayor

ATTEST: _____
Clerk

APPROVED as to form:

City Attorney