CITY OF BATTLE GROUND
RESOLUTION NO. 25-02

A RESOLUTION OPPOSING ANY EXTENSION OF LIGHT RAIL AS PART OF THE I-5 INTERSTATE BRIDGE REPLACEMENT PROJECT.

WHEREAS, the City of Battle Ground 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 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) approximately 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, an additional $21,790,090 is anticipated to be expended for the annual operating expenses of the LRT upon completion, of which $1,551,920 must be paid by C-TRAN and the municipalities which support it, including Battle Ground, 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 which is supported by the tax dollars of the City of Battle Ground 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, C-TRAN services in this area and for Clark County in general provide flexible and frequent routes for our citizens 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 and, 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, 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 Battle Ground 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 Battle Ground as follows:

1) 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.

2) This resolution shall be effective immediately upon its adoption by the Battle Ground City Council.

PASSED BY THE COUNCIL AND APPROVED BY THE MAYOR OF THE CITY OF BATTLE GROUND IN AN OPEN MEETING THIS 3rd Day of March, 2025

CITY OF BATTLE GROUND, WASHINGTON

By: _____
Troy McCoy, Mayor

Attest:

By: _____
Elizabeth Halili, City Clerk

Approved as to form:

By: _____
Kirk Ehlis, City Attorney