

**CITY OF NORTH BONNEVILLE
RESOLUTION NO. 460**

A resolution of the City Council of the City of North Bonneville declaring a local economic emergency due to a regional transportation system failure.

WHEREAS, the Port of Cascade Locks has notified the City that beginning July 16, 2013, the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and the Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) have reduced the weight limit on the Bridge of the Gods from 80,000 pounds (40T) to 16,000 pounds (8T), until a set of identified critical repairs can be completed; and

WHEREAS, a critical regional transportation route has been indefinitely closed to commercial traffic including freight haulers, tour buses, logging trucks, and construction and recreational vehicles; and

WHEREAS, due to the closure of the bridge to commercial traffic the City of North Bonneville economy will incur significant increases in the costs of doing business; and

WHEREAS, the closure may force some businesses to relocate or close their doors due to their inability to efficiently ship and/or receive freight; and

WHEREAS, tour buses and recreational vehicles will not be able to cross the bridge from I-84 thereby directly impacting those businesses that rely upon tourists; and

WHEREAS, the three western Gorge cities (Cascade Locks, North Bonneville, and City of Stevenson) have been exploring ways to protect and enhance our resources while supporting and developing the regional economy. A fully operational bridge capable of carrying normal loads is a critical element of that unique partnership; and

WHEREAS, emergency responders are providing medical and fire suppression services to both sides of the Columbia River under mutual aid agreements, a majority of our emergency responders are volunteers, and are dependent on vehicles that drastically exceed the current weight limits; and

WHEREAS, both Washington and Oregon states have made a commitment recognizing the incredible value of the National Gorge Scenic Area with a unique interstate compact. To protect that commitment both states need to address the need for a regional transportation system; and

WHEREAS, there is no established plan or timeline for the completing the critical repairs; and

WHEREAS, the emergency conditions that have warranted the closure of the bridge to certain traffic will impact the life, health and welfare of our citizens, will harm the regional economy, and warrants the declaration of an emergency and activation of emergency powers to address the needed maintenance repairs and structural alterations; and

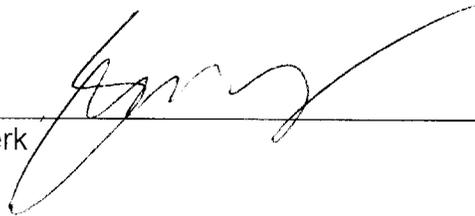
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the City supports Skamania County's decision to activate the Skamania County Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan and utilization of the emergency powers granted pursuant to that plan; supports the need to complete the bridge repairs in an expedited fashion; and requests that the Governor of Washington declare a state of emergency and consider Skamania County "an emergency" area and provide such assistance that is reasonably possible to assist our recovery from this event.

This resolution was adopted by the City Council of the City of North Bonneville during the meeting held at North Bonneville City Hall on July 23, 2013.



Mayor

Attest:



City Clerk