

# ~RESOLUTION~

**WHEREAS,** Baltimore's Francis Scott Key Bridge collapsed on March 26, 2024 due to a collision involving a DALI cargo ship, highlighting the need for bridge safety planning in order to mitigate and avoid damages related to collisions between watercraft and bridges; and

**WHEREAS,** waterways are not unlike highways and relatively minor collisions between watercraft and bridges are common, numbering about 250 per year or 5 per week across the United States, while collisions involving large ships can cause substantial damage and loss of life; and

**WHEREAS,** the Interstate Bridge Replacement (IBR) Project is currently in the planning and design phase and a variety of key metrics for consideration have emerged into the public arena, including equity and inclusion, tolls, public transportation, bridge height, and seismic retrofit, without safety as related to waterway traffic as a prime metric; and

**WHEREAS,** there is a need for scientific specificity regarding other potential bridge safety hazards, beyond earthquakes and other natural disasters, including clarity around engineered design of in-water impact protection and other design elements, and about weight and speed of ships and their cargo that can pass under the bridge;

**WHEREAS,** the lack of multiple other corridors over the Columbia River between Washington and Oregon would amplify the damaging impacts to commerce, recreation, and quality of life caused by the loss of use of the I-5 Bridge following a disaster;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED,** that the Clark County Council does hereby request that those associated with IBR design complete a thorough analysis of bridge safety needs related to the Interstate Bridge Replacement that includes detailed scientific lessons learned from the Francis Scott Key Bridge collapse, any additional costs associated with those needs, and that both the analysis and subsequent response be communicated transparently and thoroughly with project stakeholders and the public before construction.

Signed this 7th day of May, 2024

CLARK COUNTY COUNCIL  
CLARK COUNTY, WASHINGTON



Gary Medvigy, Chair, District 4



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