



# Clatsop County

## Board of Commissioners

800 Exchange St., Suite 410  
Astoria, OR 97103  
(503) 325-1000 phone / (503) 325-8325 fax  
[www.co.clatsop.or.us](http://www.co.clatsop.or.us)

January 20, 2022

Oregon Department of Transportation  
Attn: William Jablonski  
350 West Marine Drive  
Astoria, OR 97103

RE: Astoria Megler Bridge Safety Measures

Dear Mr. Jablonski,

The Clatsop County Board of Commissioners is writing in response to the most recent suicide committed from the Astoria Megler Bridge on January 12, 2022 and the ongoing concerns the County and our community members have regarding the lack of prevention/mitigation measures to prevent bridge-related suicides.

Since 2001, the Astoria Megler Bridge has been the site of 12 suicides. These deaths not only impact the individual families who experience the tragic loss of life, but also their community peers, co-workers, and bystanders.

In a Daily Astorian article in June of 2019 following a death, Amy Baker, Executive Director of Clatsop Behavioral Healthcare stated "To me, it's not just a bridge". This statement is true for many in our community who drive past or on this bridge regularly knowing the number of individuals who choose this bridge to end their lives.

We acknowledge the complexity and potential costs associated with prevention/mitigation interventions. We respectfully request ODOT actively partner with Clatsop County and local mental health professionals to assess a full range of prevention/mitigation options suitable to the Astoria Megler Bridge.

We can fortunately, benefit from a review of the literature and learn from what has worked in other communities.

The Clatsop County Board of Commissioner values the partnership with the Oregon Department of Transportation and looks forward to collaboratively "problem-solving" this important topic.

Sincerely,

Mark Kujala  
Chair, Clatsop County Board of Commissioners