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## US Transportation Secretary Pete Buttigieg visits I-5 Bridge

by Barbara Quinn



Pete Buttigieg visits I-5 Bridge for its 107th birthday

Department of Transportation Secretary Pete Buttigieg, the agency's top official, visited Vancouver on Tuesday, Feb. 13, as a guest of the Interstate Bridge Replacement Program (IBR). He toured the I-5 Bridge and its mechanical room to highlight the need for their replacement. Dignitaries on the tour included Oregon Gov. Tina Kotek and Washington Gov. Jay Inslee along with a group of partners representing both sides of the Columbia River.

The northbound bridge section was built in 1917. It remains a vital connection between Portland and Vancouver, as well as an economically significant link along the west coast as an international trade route.

The bridge replacement proposal particularly affects the Hayden Island community due to potential livability issues as well as possible problems with access to Vancouver. Residential areas in North Portland and Linnton are affected by cut-through traffic using the Bridge. In addition, North Portland residents have been affected by constant traffic jams in the I-5 corridor and resulting air pollution. It is unclear if representatives from these communities are being included in advisory discussions.

Buttigieg did not discuss additional federal funding for the Bridge Replacement Program although it is hoped the visit signals strong federal support from the Biden administration for replacing the Interstate Bridge.

#### Upcoming IBR Events:

##### Executive Steering Group

Tuesday, March 5 – 1pm to 3pm

##### Community Advisory Group

Thursday, March 14 – 4pm to 6pm

To find out more about these meetings and get more information contact the Interstate Bridge Replacement Project:

Visit: [SignUpGenius.com](http://SignUpGenius.com)

Email: [info@interstatebridge.org](mailto:info@interstatebridge.org)

or Call: 888-503-6735 ♦

## Find the perfect Somebunny

by Kimberly Gehl, Owner of Alice in Bunderland & a St. Johns neighbor

It's officially Easter season, also known as bunny-everything season. It's a popular time of year for people to think about getting a bunny, so here is a quick guide if you're considering it.

#### Go Down the Research Rabbit Hole

Spend a little time looking up what makes bunnies unique from other pets. They are

higher maintenance than you might think! Some important things to know:

- They are extremely social and are happiest living inside like cats and dogs
- They need their own litter box filled with bedding and hay
- "Bunny-proofing" is necessary and they may still destroy your cables and furniture
- They are prone to stomach upset and require a special diet
- They shed a few times a year and need their nails trimmed every 2 months
- They will typically struggle when being picked up or held and can get injured easily
- They can live 10-12 years and need to be seen by an exotic vet

**Show Me the Bunny** - Rescue organizations have bunnies of all colors, shapes, sizes, and personalities just waiting to find their perfect home. It's like a bunny matchmaking service where you can look at profiles of adoptable bunnies then request to meet the ones you are interested in.

Looking for a more active bunny or a more cuddly bunny or one that gets along well with cats and dogs? Rescue bunnies live in foster homes while they wait to be seen by a vet and their foster families really get to know what makes them special, their likes and dislikes, and any notable quirks.

**Join the Fluffle** - Did you know a group of bunnies is called a fluffle? When you adopt a rabbit, you become part of the fluffle of rabbit enthusiasts who are all about everything bunny and are there to answer any questions you might have as a new parent.

Like social media? Connect with other bunny parents by creating an account and posting with tags like #bunnybuttfriday, #sundaybunday and #bunnygram.

**Hop to It** - Whether you are ready to adopt, foster or volunteer, there are plenty of local opportunities to spend more time with bunnies and help rescue them at the same time!

Portland-area rescues include: Rabbit Advocates, Little Critter Crew, Avalon Microsanctuary, and The Hare BNB Rescue, Spa and Boutique. Visit [aliceinbunderland.com/adopt/](http://aliceinbunderland.com/adopt/) for more info and links.

Connect with a rescue then brag to all your friends about how you're a superhero for bunnies!

Reach out to Kimberly with your bunny questions (or bunny social media links) by emailing: [kimberly@aliceinbunderland.com](mailto:kimberly@aliceinbunderland.com) or by calling / texting (503) 332-5617. ♦

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**Mar 21** Katie Presley – SkaQueen, inappropriate originals

Eddie Parente – swing & bluegrass fiddle legend **Mar 28**

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