

Submitter: Jim Schepcke
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Joint Committee On Transportation
Measure: HB2137

Dear Committee Members:

As a Salem resident since 1986, I want the Committee to know that I strongly oppose HB 2137. We have already spent nearly 13 years (2006-2019) and wasted about \$10 million in discretionary transportation dollars on the crazy idea of a 3rd Bridge in the Salem area. In the end, a majority of the Salem City Council rejected the plan for many reasons. It would have destroyed homes and businesses and parkland. It would have cost about \$1 billion that could only have been covered with tolls and tax increases that would never have been supported here. The majority of our City Council is still opposed, including our Mayor who voted against it as a Councilor. Since the worst of COVID, traffic on the two bridges we have is down. I don't hear complaints about bridge congestion. It may be because many state workers are now working most days from home. Please don't force us to relive the craziness and divisiveness of 2006-2019 with this Task Force.

Jim Schepcke