

Submitter: Kathleen Carl
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Joint Committee On Transportation
Measure: HB2781

Joint Committee on Transportation
RE: HB 2781

Dear Chairs Gorsek and McLain and members of this committee:

I have watched how making the I-5 Freeway wider has only made the drive from Salem to Portland worse. I have driven the enormous freeways of Los Angeles which are, despite their continued expanding size, jam-packed. I fear that the proposed Bridge District will propose a 3rd bridge in Salem and forget that expansion usually means more cars and congestion, not less.

Instead, as a people faced with climate change, we should look to other options. We should look to the City of Salem's congestion relief task force for ideas on addressing traffic problems. Making it possible for more cars to move will only mean more cars. And more climate pollution. We need to face our future with more access to transit, not this.

Second, bridges will inevitably take out farm land. Do we really want to endanger our future food production for more cars?

Third, this Bridge District group will have too much power. It will have power to plan, finance and construct all bridges. Then it can "assess, levy, and collect taxes on all taxable property within the boundaries of the district" to pay for those bridges. Too much power!

Finally, my experience of driving to and from West Salem is that the bridge problem in Salem is only a problem during the rush hours. Adjusting the hours of the employees of the state and other large enterprises could spread usage of the bridges. Investigation into changing lane configurations might also be a possibility.

We need to face the future with options that will not endanger our climate and our farms.

Thank you.