



March 23, 2023

Subject: HB 3301 and HB 3323, Funding for Earthquake Ready Burnside Bridge Project

Chairs Gorsek and McLain, Vice Chairs Boquist and Boshart-Davis, Members of the Joint Transportation Committee:

Neighbors for Clean Air would like to express its support for HB 3301 and 3323, which would provide important financial support for Multnomah County's Earthquake Ready Burnside Bridge project. If funded, this project will play a critical role in community safety, response, and recovery after a major earthquake, provide numerous jobs in our region and move our community closer to its safety, access and transportation justice goals.

Additionally, once built, the new Burnside Bridge will provide a streetcar-ready route that is safer and more accessible and comfortable for pedestrians, cyclists, and people with disabilities by removing one-lane of traffic and widening the pedestrian/bicycle corridor. In doing so, the project is working towards creating transportation infrastructure that is more sustainable, equitable and furthering goals within Multnomah County's Climate Action Plan. Neighbors for Clean Air advocates for safe and accessible transportation options that reduce environmental impacts and builds an equitable transportation system.

We applaud the inclusion of many features that move us towards these goals:

- seismic resilience
- a crash worthy barrier between lanes of traffic and the multi-use path.
- multi-use path will be at least as wide as the current path on the Tilikum bridge
- streetcar and a bus-only lane on the east-bound side of the bridge will encourage transit ridership.
- stormwater capture system which will improve the water quality of the Willamette River
- gold certification in the Greenroads Sustainability Rating System during the design and construction phases of the bridge.
- largest project to be completed while adhering to the Clean Air Construction Program, which is a collaboration among public agencies in the Portland Metro Area to reduce diesel emissions on their construction projects.

We urge your support of HB 3301 and HB 3323, which support the replacement of the current 95-year-old Burnside Bridge that has reached the end of its service life. This project will help protect the region and the state from the full impacts of a major disaster, foster its ability to recover after the earthquake and ensure that the region has a reliable and future-ready multi-modal bridge for the next century.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'Mary Peveto'.

Mary Peveto  
Executive Director, Neighbors for Clean Air