

Submitter: Lauriel Amoroso
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Joint Committee On Transportation
Measure: HB2098

I support replacing this bridge, but oppose HB 2098 -2, because this legislation as currently written jeopardizes a right-sized Bridge Replacement, right now. I support the forthcoming -3 Amendment (and the policy recommendations offered by the Just Crossing Alliance) that ensures this replacement bridge project moves forward smoothly with explicit pro-labor provisions, finance guardrails, and major investments in mass transit.

I am frustrated that ODOT has billions of dollars for freeway expansions but barely spends a dime on safety projects while the state is experiencing an epidemic of traffic fatalities.

I am surprised to see that HB 2098's -2 Amendment currently has no language in support of unionized labor-friendly practices including the required establishment of a Project Labor Agreement or Community Benefits Agreement.

I am very concerned about what a freeway expansion means in terms of more cars, more traffic and more air pollution in North and Northeast Portland.

I am very concerned about the climate emergency and frustrated that ODOT wants to spend billions of dollars on a freeway that will increase emissions instead of investing in better local and statewide transit options, when 40% of Oregon's carbon emissions come from transportation.

As a public educator I am also very concerned that HB 2098 uses General Fund resources to pay for a new bridge instead of bonding against existing Highway Trust Fund dollars, a maneuver that directly pits this bridge project against other statewide budget priorities like investing education, which is currently not being fully funded for the next biennium.

We need a right sized bridge, right now, and a long-term investment in reliable and affordable public transportation across the state.

Thank you,