

Submitter: Zach L

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 STRONGLY oppose spending billions on a freeway project that will simply clog Portland's streets with more traffic, at the expense of the vibrant urban and social fabric that Portland is known for. Expansion of auto infrastructure is a mistake that leaves us chasing our own tail on endlessly growing traffic, has led us to record traffic deaths over the past two years, creates an antisocial culture due to the destruction of street life through pedestrians and cyclists being chased indoors through fear for their own safety as motorists continue to dominate public space, promotes sprawl as a result of subsidizing a development model reliant on subsidies for driving long distances on a regular basis as a way of life, and is financially insolvent.

This cannot be a matter of simply adding transit to an already auto-centric project. Our transportation budget needs to be in line with the values Oregonians espouse, and it needs to prioritize a reduction in VMTs, in addition to providing viable alternatives to driving. This means fewer lanes on highways, congestion pricing to reduce VMT and allow freight access to less congested roads, and repurposing general vehicle right-of-ways for mass transit, walking, and cycling.

Therefore, I ask the members of the committee to vote NO on HB 2098 -2 and support the forthcoming -3 Amendment instead.