

Submitter: Sandra Brown
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.

ODOT, as a fiduciary of taxpayer tax dollars, needs to adopt and embrace a prudent, multi-faceted approach to its investment in critical transportation infrastructure for Oregon's future. ODOT needs to prioritize safety projects across all communities to address the epidemic of traffic fatalities. ODOT needs to invest in better local and statewide transit options to do its part to combat climate change and reduce carbon emissions from transportation. ODOT needs to adapt both its thinking and investment strategy for the health and safety of all Oregonians vs. being 'stuck' in the 1950's mentality of 'more is more' when it comes to freeway expansion and embrace exploration of future transportation needs for people and the planet in the 21st century and beyond.