

Submitter: Stephen Bachhuber

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 bothered by the failure to consider cheaper alternatives such as tunneling or a lift bridge. I am upset that general funds are tapped for the project, putting it in competition with all other funding priorities. There seems to be no understanding of the established concept of “induced demand”. The entire effort seems to have been hatched by a handful of well connected individuals who are advancing their own biases and personal interests. The project already seems out of hand and growing with a life of its own. It has the earmarks of a costly debacle. Watch out.