

Submitter: Mike Farrell

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.

As the project stands, it will only create more traffic and more emissions. We need to improve the current bridge. A right size bridge would fix the problems with the current bridge and address issues with climate and cost. Making the freeway bigger doesn't address the climate problem. It will not lead to less traffic, only more. I want to see ODOT investigate other solutions for better transit. A right size bridge would free up money for investment in other projects. Projects such as public transit, biking and safety. All things that will do more to reduce traffic and emissions than a large freeway project.

Thank you for your time.