

Submitter: Zachary Alderman

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.

Such a significant investment of our state funds should not be going towards saving 5 minutes of driving time for residents of southwest Washington. That money should be going towards projects that prevent the deaths of 500 Oregonians every year, make our local streets better, improve local businesses, reduce fossil fuel dependence, improve local tourism, and much more.

Expanding freeways is the policy platform from the 1960's. Induced demand is real, and it should be acknowledged by the state. Any politician that supports freeway expansions make it clear to the public that they are happy to ignore climate change, the deaths of our citizens, the degradation of our communities, economy, and public health and will permanently lose any vote of mine.