

Submitter: Chris Chaplin

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Joint Committee On Transportation

Measure: HB2098

To the Members of the Joint Committee on Transportation,

I support replacing this bridge, but I 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 note that ODOT has billions of dollars for freeway expansions but very little in the way of funds for any safety projects - this while the state is experiencing an epidemic of traffic fatalities, including on streets like SE Powell, very near where my family and I live. Additionally, a freeway expansion that preferences car traffic - in 2023, no less - means only an increase in already elevated air pollution and *still* increasing carbon emissions, while we collectively march, seemingly blindfolded, toward a climate dystopia.

Very Sincerely,

Chris Chaplin

Concerned Citizen and Parent