

Submitter: Nick Sauvie
On Behalf Of: ROSE Community Development
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 -3 Amendment (and the policy recommendations offered by the Just Crossing Alliance) that ensures this replacement bridge project moves forward smoothly with a right-sized design, explicit pro-labor provisions, financial guardrails, and major investments in mass transit.

ROSE Community Development is a community-based nonprofit organization serving low-income communities in outer southeast Portland. Our neighborhoods are among the most diverse in the state of Oregon. We have 10 out of the 11 most dangerous intersections in the city, as well as poor streets, lack of sidewalks, and inadequate street lighting. The I-5 bridge replacement as proposed by ODOT is a massive, expensive freeway expansion that would primarily benefit high-income commuters from Washington state. Oregon should be investing its resources in meeting the needs of Oregonians.

Finally, ODOT's proposed massive freeway expansion is a climate change disaster. Let's invest the public's money on projects that make us more climate resilient, not less.