

Submitter: Jacob Apenes  
On Behalf Of:  
Committee: Joint Committee On Transportation  
Measure: HB2098

Hello Co-chairs McLain and Frederick, and the Joint Committee On Transportation,

My name is Jacob Apenes, I am 24 years old and a volunteer with Sunrise PDX and 350PDX. I am testifying in opposition to amendments 2 and 4 of House Bill 2098.

There's a lot of concerns I have with these amendments. There's the desire to expand automobile infrastructure amidst a climate crisis. There's almost zero plan to fund the operational costs of a MAX light rail, and there are worries that the current bridge design is too short for the coast guard's liking. There's a lot to fix!

What I'm most concerned about is the price. \$6.3 billion dollars for a freeway expansion project is a crime. \$6.3 billion dollars "at most" given to a transportation department notorious for cost overruns. \$6.3 billion dollars, where \$1 billion dollars will be loaned from Oregon for the next four decades.

What an extravagant amount for a project that almost entirely serves private automobiles. On top of all of this, House Bill 2098 includes the Rose Quarter Project, requiring the state of Oregon to fund a separate freeway expansion within the next two years.

These are billions of dollars that could go to funding education, healthcare, safer streets, or housing across the entire state. Instead, we are choosing to exacerbate the climate crisis, increase traffic and air pollution throughout my neighborhood (I am a constituent of Senator Frederick), and trap future funding for an additional freeway project.

We need a new bridge and we need to act now to acquire federal funding. We also need to reduce congestion throughout the corridor and fight the climate crisis. Let's achieve all of these goals by replacing the bridge and funding multi-modal infrastructure. Let's also achieve all of these goals by not adding freeway lanes, not promising to fund the Rose Quarter Project, and ensuring bridge tolling goes towards equitable transportation alternatives, not continued freeway expansion.

Thank you.