

Submitter: Avery Johnson
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Joint Committee On Transportation
Measure: HB2098

I support replacing this bridge, but oppose HB 2098 -2 and -4, 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. We need a clean bill focused solely on the replacement of this bridge so we secure immediate federal funding and prepare to hold a statewide conversation about the rest of our transportation system in future years.

Over and over ODOT pushes massive projects aimed at expanding car infrastructure and then goes way over budget and avoids any investigation into environmental impacts of the projects. There are so many smaller projects to do that would dramatically improve the quality of life and safety of all road users. It is irresponsible to spend billions on bloated freeway expansions when there is basic maintenance and safety work going ignored.