

Submitter: Stephan Lindner  
On Behalf Of: NA  
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 an bridge replacement that is adequate in size and funding requirement. My specific concerns include:

1. I am concerned that HB 2098 uses General Fund resources to pay for a bridge replacement instead of bonding against existing Highway Trust Fund dollars. These funds will not be available for other important public services, such as housing support.
2. I am concerned about the lack of oversight regarding ODOT's approach for the bridge replacement. ODOT has not provided cheaper options that would sufficiently upgrade the bridge to adhere to seismic code without requiring excessive state funding. ODOT also has a track record of overspending, especially on large infrastructure projects, yet state legislature seems uninterested in controlling potential cost overrun.
3. I am concerned that an oversized bridge replacement will mean that there is less money available for other important infrastructure projects, including important seismic updates on more than 500 bridges in Oregon or implementing long overdue safety improvement projects that would reduce the number of vehicle travel related injuries and deaths.
4. I am concerned about the implications of a massive freeway expansion in terms of induced demand, air pollution, and vehicle travel related injuries and deaths.

Spending \$1 billion on General Funds is a terrible way to spend public funds. Please use taxpayer money to serve constituents instead of ODOT and its engineers.