

Submitter: Lynn Handlin

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Joint Committee On Transportation

Measure: HB2098

Hi, My name is Lynn Spitaleri Handlin, I thank all of you cochairs, vice chairs and committee members for the opportunity to address HB 2098 -2-4
I live and operate my small business in outer SE Portland and Happy Valley.

We need a replacement bridge, that is certain. I support the -3 version, which replaces the bridge without adding freeway lanes. I strongly oppose the -2 and -4 versions which adds freeway lanes that will lead directly to increased vehicle miles driven due to induced demand - the build it and they will drive principle. Build wider freeways more people will drive and you will be adding fuel to fire of the climate crisis.

Now is not the time to widen freeways. Sacrificing a livable future for our children for a very short term reduction in commute times is not acceptable.

Another major problem with the -2 version is the footprint. We need to replace the I-5 bridge "within the existing footprint"—Not the -2 version which will make communities in the path of the expansion less safe. Have you all seen the diagrams? The monster bridge that is being proposed would destroy communities and make others much less safe.

We need more and better public transportation, that will absolutely reduce congestion, widening freeways will not.

ODOT has always been about freeways, widening and adding to them, not so much with public transportation, pedestrian and bike options, although they do like to talk about non-car alternatives, but their actions say it all: Widening freeways is always the way they want to go. It's what they know.

It's time to do things differently. Now is the time for strong action on climate, not making it worse by widening freeways. Please consider -3 version for a right sized bridge, not the oversized bridge.