



May 15, 2023

To: Joint Committee on Transportation, Hon. Co-Chairs McLain and Frederick, Co Vice-Chairs Boquist and Boshart Davis and members of the committee

Re: Strongly Support HB 3622 - Funding for Earthquake Ready Burnside Bridge Project

Dear Committee Members,

As an advocacy organization representing street users from across Greater Portland, The Street Trust works to address unsafe and incomplete public streets that threaten lives and livelihoods, and to win policy and investments that save lives, reduce barriers, and expand mobility and opportunities to the people and neighborhoods our current system neglects. **For these reasons, The Street Trust strongly supports HB 3622, which would provide important financial support for Multnomah County's Earthquake Ready Burnside Bridge project and other important local bridges in our state.** Our bridges are interconnected and play an integral role in ensuring a reliable and efficient statewide transportation system. Funding our local bridges now, especially those along Emergency Transportation Routes, is critical to the resiliency and sustainability of our growing and working community.

If funded, this project will play a critical role in community safety, response, and recovery after a major earthquake and move our community closer to its safety, access, equity, and transportation goals while creating over 6000 jobs. Oregon's largest metro region currently does not have a downtown bridge that will be usable immediately after a major earthquake. The Pacific Northwest regularly experiences some of the largest earthquakes in the world along the Cascadia Subduction Zone (CSZ). Geologists estimate there is a one in three chance that a CSZ earthquake with a magnitude of 8+ will strike the Portland region in the next 50 years. Completion of Multnomah County's Earthquake Ready Burnside Bridge project will ensure that we have at least one downtown bridge that emergency responders can use after a major earthquake. It will also minimize the amount of environmental waste and impacts following the major earthquake.

Multnomah County has met with The Street Trust and our members to advise and refine the project design, including incorporating our input on value-engineering undertaken throughout 2022. Our experience working with Multnomah County on this and other transportation efforts has been exemplary, in particular their commitment

to fiscal stewardship, environmental sustainability, and racial equity in every aspect of their work. We are confident that Multnomah County will manage a quality project which will result in a safer, more accessible, and more comfortable route for people including pedestrians, cyclists, and people with disabilities.

We understand that investments in upgrading Oregon's bridges for seismic resiliency is a priority for this committee and the Oregon Legislature this session and there are many competing demands for resources. Multnomah County is poised for success and the requested funding for an Earthquake Ready Burnside Bridge and the other bridges in HB 3622 should be a priority among those.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Sarah", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Sarah Iannarone  
Executive Director, The Street Trust  
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