

Submitter:

Melissa Pohlman

On Behalf Of:

Committee:

Joint Committee On Transportation

Measure, Appointment or Topic:

HB2749

I am writing in support of funding to modernize the neighborhood bridge over Columbia Blvd in the St Johns neighborhood. In case of major disaster, all bridges over railroad lines and across the river will fail, leaving thousands of residents without any means to reach services and supplies in other areas of the city. It also means no support vehicles can make their way in to clear debris, rescue residents, or provide supplies. If these bridges fail, it could mean thousands of additional injuries and deaths. The only access would be limited shore docks and via air, yet our emergency and support services are mostly land based. Water and air options are limited to provide enough services to get people to hospitals and clinics, or distribute supplies. St Johns desperately needs funding to update at least one neighborhood bridge to prevent deaths and help residents rebuild in case of major disaster.