

Submitter: Rep. Shannon Jones Isadore
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Joint Committee On Transportation
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB2749
Chair, Vice-Chairs, and Members of the Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to share my support for House Bill 2749.

As the State Representative for the Cathedral Park neighborhood in North Portland, I am concerned about the seismic vulnerability of the North Portland Peninsula. These communities are geographically isolated and rely almost entirely on a small number of aging bridges to stay connected to the rest of the city and region.

The Columbia Boulevard bridge over the railroad cut is of particular importance to the community, serving as a lifeline not only for daily freight and commuter traffic, but as a federally designated Emergency Transportation Route. This crucial connector was built in 1909 and is seismically vulnerable, structurally compromised, and at high risk of failure. It's essential that we safeguard this critical avenue for supplies, emergency services, and evacuation in the event of an emergency.

We should not wait for a disaster to force our hand. Emergency preparedness is a matter of public safety, regional economic security, and basic resiliency. HB 2749 is a vital step toward designing a replacement for the Columbia Boulevard bridge—our only publicly-owned crossing over the railroad cut.

I urge your support for this critical legislation.

Sincerely,
Representative Shannon Jones Isadore
Oregon House of Representatives, HD 33