

Submitter: Jesse Graham
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Joint Committee On Transportation
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB2749

Honorable Chair and Members of the Committee,

My name is Jesse Graham and I am a resident of the St. John's Neighborhood. I am writing today to express my strong support for House Bill 2749, which appropriates funds to the Department of Transportation for distribution to the City of Portland for the purpose of designing a bridge across Columbia Boulevard.

I believe this bill is crucial for several reasons:

Improved Transportation and Connectivity: Columbia Boulevard is a significant thoroughfare, and a well-designed bridge will greatly enhance transportation and connectivity in the area. This will benefit residents, businesses, and visitors alike, facilitating smoother traffic flow and reducing congestion.

Economic Development: The construction of a new bridge can serve as a catalyst for economic development. It can improve access to businesses, create job opportunities during the design and construction phases, and enhance the overall attractiveness of the area for investment.

Community Enhancement: A thoughtfully designed bridge can be more than just a transportation structure; it can also be an asset to the community. It can incorporate pedestrian and bicycle paths, improve safety, and contribute to the aesthetic appeal of the surrounding area.

Emergency Route: The provision of a reliable emergency exit route from the St. John's neighborhood is of critical importance due to several factors. The area's geography, including its proximity to the Willamette River and the presence of the St. Johns Bridge, creates potential bottlenecks that could impede rapid evacuation in the event of a major disaster such as an earthquake, fire, or hazardous material incident. Ensuring that residents have a safe and efficient way to leave the area is paramount to minimizing casualties and protecting the community's overall well-being. A well-planned and maintained evacuation route is not simply a matter of convenience, but a fundamental necessity for public safety and resilience.

I urge you to support House Bill 2749 and invest in this important infrastructure project. This bridge is an investment in the future of Portland, and will provide long-lasting benefits to our community.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Jesse Graham

St. John's Neighborhood Resident and voter