

Submitter: Thomas Karwaki  
On Behalf Of:  
Committee: Joint Committee On Transportation  
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB2749

The Board of Directors of the University Park Neighborhood Association (UPNA) urges the Joint Committee on Transportation to pass HB 2749.

The over 7,500 residents of University Park neighborhood are directly impacted by this bill.

HB 2749 provides funding for the design and engineering needed to procure full funding for a new bridge and interchange on Columbia Blvd. In an earthquake, it is the weakest link – the bottleneck on Columbia Blvd. that will prevent emergency vehicles from reaching over 20,000 persons in North Portland.

Without the bridge that HB 2749 addresses, most of the residents of the St Johns, Cathedral Park, Portsmouth and University Park neighborhoods will be cut off from emergency vehicles, food and supplies during a major earthquake and for several months afterwards. It is one of the City of Portland's transportation bureau's (PBOT) highest priority projects in its 20240 Freight Transportation Plan adopted by the City Council.

The UPNA Board urges you to pass HB 2749 and prioritize this critical safety investment within this biennium budget.

Thomas Karwaki  
President, University Park Neighborhood Association