

Submitter: Lisa Manning

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Joint Committee On Transportation Reinvestment

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB2025

Dear Portland City Council,

June 11, 2025

In ancient wisdom of Native American cultures, frogs are symbols of healing, cleansing, renewal, rebirth, wealth and abundance. It's time to cleanse and heal our planet and bring abundance, wealth and opportunity back to Portland for all citizens. Let's get the Frog Ferry running on the Willamette River soon!

Since the 1970's, human caused carbon industrial activities have contributed to rapid acceleration of species extinction and extreme warming of the planet. We are tragically behind in reversing the effects of global warming and consequential environmental destruction. An all electric public ferry transportation system on the Willamette River for pedestrians and bicycles would be a positive local remedy to this global problem. For starters, the single ferry would displace 3,170 metric tons of CO2 emissions annually and remove 600 cars from our city streets. Once the charging station infrastructure is built to support it, an all electric fleet of seven ferries could be operating on the Willamette and Columbia Rivers from Vancouver, WA to Oregon City, OR. The combined effect of seven ferries could remove 43,000 metric tons of CO2 annually from our air and 700,000 cars annually from our roads.

The Frog Ferry would create many jobs including; building the ferries, building or upgrading docking structures, installing electrical charging stations on the ferry route, hiring staff to run and maintain the ferries, ticketing with TriMet, ....to name a few. The pilot ferry would be built in the USA and establish a single ferry service from the Cathedral Park Dock to River Place Dock in downtown Portland, both docks are owned by Portland Parks. There is also docking potential on Swan Island, and the dock at the University of Portland newly developed Riverside Campus. The ferry route passes the proposed Portland Botanical Garden site and Metro Willamette Cove Nature Park site, both are natural area tourism attractions. In the past, Trimet has offered to become a partner with Friends of the Frog Ferry once they have a functioning ferry.

In summary, an electric public passenger river ferry, will add these benefits;

- ~ Reduce traffic congestion on roads
- ~ Reduces fossil fuel dependance and greenhouse gas emissions in Portland
- ~ Improves commuting time for city citizens. The 53 minute Trimet bus commute to

downtown from St Johns would be reduced to a 25 minute ferry ride from the St Johns Bridge Dock to the River Place Dock.

- ~ Create resiliency during emergency response situations. Ferries on the river could move faster than gridlocked roads in an emergency.

- ~ Enhance tourism opportunities and bring revenue to our economy

- ~ Increase the electrical grid infrastructure and opportunities to launch electric boats from Photon Marine on Swan Island

- ~ Improve city air quality and community livability

- ~ Green transportation for low income communities of St Johns

- ~ Potentially part of Trimet public transportation system

- ~ Provide an affordable means of connecting marginalized neighborhoods with services and job opportunities

- ~ Increase education opportunities regarding river ecosystems, habitats, natural science and indigenous history

- ~ A way for people to enjoy our beautiful river ecosystem

- ~ A fun connection to the planned npGreenway bike and hike trail segment from the Esplanade to Kelly Point Park. The proposed Greenway trail will pass near the St Johns Ferry Dock.

The advantages and charm of an electric ferry network, will attract tourists and residents to our city. In the hot summer, being on the banks of the Willamette River is truly and noticeably a welcome relief! I would use the ferry to commute downtown and to share the river beauty with friends and family. The Frog Ferry is a win-win for our beautiful City of Portland, our State of Oregon and long overdue. Sincerely,  
Lisa C Manning North Portland