

Submitter: Kelly Tadlock

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Joint Committee On Transportation Reinvestment

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB2025

I am writing in support of the Frog Ferry. I am so pleased to see this project continue and hoping that the city council will vote to fully partner with the Frog Ferry.

I am a full-time wheelchair user with an incomplete spinal cord injury. This means I don't stand or walk at all. My transportation needs are somewhat more complex than the Normies or Able-Bodied. Living in St. Johns for the last 20 years, I have noticed that the transportation around the city is pretty limited here. The buses do not run as much as when I lived in inner SE. Waiting for a bus in St. Johns has had buses pass me by because of my wheelchair; seriously, it's a thing!

In St. Johns, there is no streetcar (there once was), no ferry either (there once was). I would love to see both return in St. Johns. I have discussed with neighbors over the last 20+ years how cut off this area feels from the rest of the city. I have seen friends' small businesses struggle because of the lack of "foot traffic." I think a ferry system could bring more people here and build a better business core.

As a disabled person with a diminished respiratory system, I see the benefits of reducing the bus and car pollution and gridlocked traffic. In St. Johns, we already face severe bad air quality. The ferry system has the potential to reduce these problems, not add to them.

There is also an issue of preparing for a natural disaster like an earthquake. St. Johns bridges would likely collapse during an earthquake. This means we would have no way out of St. Johns should some of the toxic waste facilities here catch fire. Being a full-time wheelchair user, I know my own options are limited in any disaster scenario. This applies to many senior disabled neighbors as well.

For all these reasons, I think the Frog Ferry would not only serve the St. Johns Community very well but also revive our business district, making a pleasant outing for business patrons and tourists instead of a cutoff no-man's land.

I hope you consider my testimony. I do love Portland and St. Johns (lived here over 40 years). I really want what's best for the City. I do think Frog Ferry is it.

Thanks for your time!