

Submitter:

Julie Berry

On Behalf Of:

Committee:

Joint Committee On Transportation Reinvestment

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB2025

My name is Julie Berry, and I am a native Portlander. Being born and raised here, of course our city lives deep in my heart. I have always been proud of our awareness of smart growth and staying true to our cities backbone which thrives on diversity, unity and strong sense of community. Our city has had some very troubling challenges the last few years which has seemed to tarnish our long reputation of being "one of the best places to live on the west coast". Besides the social issues that continue to be a struggle in our city, our transportation struggles have ALSO plagued us in so many ways. Our freeways are packed every day with grid lock, with angry stressed drivers just trying to go from the west side to east side or vice versa making this effort nearly impossible. This has got to change.

We are affectionately referred to as "The City of Bridges" but these Bridges are NOT enough anymore to handle our current traffic needs. We have to own that and seek alternative solutions like Frog Ferry. Our neighboring city Seattle has shown us water can be a hugely successful transportation alternative. Why we don't see their success and use our river as well just does not make sense! If we add Frog Ferry, we have less traffic on our bridges, less fumes in our air, less road and bridge maintenance and happier residents. This is just what our city needs to show dedication to the outcry of complaints regarding our transportation mess and also show new pride and hope that our city is alive and resilient!! We need working solutions to help our city thrive again Frog Ferry would bring people back to our waterfronts show we are a city that is progressive and solution savvy regarding transportation needs and kick start a new way of thinking to travel by water in a city that has been stagnate and pushing the people to the outskirts.

Our city has seen the river as a resource since the beginning. First with the movement of huge logs, ships and now it's time to take the next step and use this amazing resource to ease our transportation needs. We need water transportation! We need Frog Ferry. The river is already there, the time is now, let's do it!!

Thank you,
Julie Berry