

Submitter: Katherine Goeddel
On Behalf Of: myself
Committee: Joint Committee On Transportation Reinvestment
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB2025

Dear Oregon Legislators,

Investing in our transportation future can feel daunting in the face of urgent budget shortfalls. But some opportunities are too promising—and too practical—to ignore. Frog Ferry, a community-based nonprofit, has already contributed over \$40 million in research, planning, and in-kind support to develop a water-based transit option for the Portland metro area. Now, a \$10 million investment from the State and a \$10 million match from the City/PCEF can help bring this innovative, in-demand mode of transportation to life.

This is not about indulgence; it's about resilience. Frog Ferry offers a low-capital, low-operating-cost solution that uses existing docks and infrastructure, with no potholes to fix and no roads to plow. Operational costs are modest, with a projected 50% farebox recovery rate. In other words, it's an example of smart, lean investment in a time when we need both fiscal discipline and climate action.

But perhaps more importantly, this project invites us to consider the value of "slow" transportation—transport that connects people to the rhythm of the river, to the beauty of our region, and to each other. Not every journey needs to be rushed. Some of the most vital trips are the ones that restore our sense of place, of scale, and of community.

Let's resist the instinct to pit new ideas against existing needs. Instead, let's recognize that a diverse and resilient transportation system includes more than roads and rail. Frog Ferry can launch within three years, build regional connectivity, and offer Oregonians a new, sustainable, and memorable way to move.

At a time of challenge, let's also choose vision. Let's choose to build the Oregon we want to live in—not just today, but for generations to come.

Sincerely,

Katherine Goeddel, Portland, OR