

June 12, 2025

Testimony from a coalition of neighborhood leaders on the north peninsula of Portland. Submitted to the Joint Committee on Transportation

St Johns Neighborhood Association: RJ DeMello, Carina Solis [SALT]

Cathedral Park Neighborhood Association: Faith Ruffing, Lena Childress, Perrin Falkner

University Park Neighborhood Association: Thomas Karwaki

Portsmouth Neighborhood Association: Mary-Margaret Wheeler-Webb, Elizabeth V.

James Johns PTA: Jonny Savoie

George MS PTA: Christine Lindskog Vial

St Johns Faith Community: Josh Hawk, Janel Hovde

Extinction Rebellion PDX: Diane Meisenhelter

We hope that by now, you understand the plight of the roughly 20,000 people who live and work in St. Johns, Cathedral Park and Rivergate Industrial area when the "Big One" inevitably hits. Our quest for a safe route out of the end of the peninsula after such a disaster has been covered by [KATU](#), [KOIN](#), and [OPB](#).

We championed Representative Travis Nelson's HB 2749. Now, **we need the Joint Transportation Committee to allot the \$5 million for PBOT to get to the milestone in design needed so that the city can then go for grants to get the Columbia Blvd. bridge rebuilt. THE BRIDGE WILL BE A TRUE LIFELINE!**

90% of the state's fuel is stored in aging tanks on the Willamette River in north Portland. Studies indicate most of the tanks will rupture in the earthquake, and the resulting inferno could send a **toxic cloud** across the river to the nearest community, 20,000 residents and workers on the north peninsula in Portland. **Surely those who carry this state threat deserve an escape route.**

At the least, doing nothing destines a group of people larger than all of Pendleton to a catastrophe, as families will be separated from their children if the earthquake strikes while our two elementary, one middle, and one high school are in session, we have no medical facility and would soon run out of food. **Because the north peninsula will have been completely cut off, NO ONE will be able to come help us for weeks or months.**

Funding and emergency route is the right thing to do for the people of St. Johns, Cathedral Park, and the Rivergate Industrial Area. It's also the right thing to do as the stewards of Oregon's expenditures. **Don't wait for the catastrophe which will come if 20,000 are stranded – or worse!** Please fund this project,

Thank you for your time,

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