

Submitter: Jordyn Siemens
On Behalf Of: HB2025
Committee: Joint Committee On Transportation Reinvestment
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB2025

There is an immediate need for both investment and planning around a new bridge project in North Portland, in order to guarantee access routes along N Lombard Street and NE Columbia Boulevard in the event of a major earthquake. The "Big One" is expected in the next 50 years (37% chance) along the Cascadia Subduction Zone. The North Portland peninsula is where the state's fuel resources are concentrated, and where myself and tens of thousands of other Portlanders live. Our neighborhood is at high risk of liquefaction after an earthquake, which will destabilize the land, and it's likely that the gasoline production facilities will catch fire, creating toxic air. If bridges spanning the railroad cut that runs north to south through the peninsula fail, our current identified exit routes along N Lombard and NE Columbia are rendered useless. A PBOT study confirmed these bridges are expected to fail. HB2749, brought forth by Rep. Nelson, would have committed money to designing solutions to this problem, but my understanding is that bill died in committee. I urge you to seek out other options to solve this problem, and to start by adding dedicated funding to HB2025. This is a fast-growing community that faces a severe risk and deserves a reliable evacuation route in the event of a major disaster.