

Submitter: Josh McCreight

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Joint Committee On Transportation Reinvestment

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB2025

On behalf of my friends, family, and all the residents of the St. Johns neighborhood in Portland, I am writing to express my deep concern about the current lack of adequate emergency evacuation infrastructure in our community—particularly in the event of a major earthquake. St. Johns is uniquely vulnerable due to its geographic isolation, with limited routes in and out of the area. In the case of a seismic event, the existing St. Johns Bridge may not be sufficient to handle the volume of evacuation traffic, especially if it sustains damage or becomes impassable.

Adding funding for an emergency bridge is not just a matter of convenience—it is a matter of life and death. Our community needs a reliable, seismically resilient evacuation route to ensure that residents, including families, seniors, and individuals with disabilities, can escape safely and efficiently. Emergency services must also be able to reach us without delay.

Investing in this infrastructure now is a proactive step that will save lives, protect property, and strengthen the overall resilience of Portland's emergency response network. I urge city and state officials to prioritize funding for an emergency bridge in St. Johns. Our safety depends on it.