

Submitter: Carina Solis
On Behalf Of: St Johns Neighborhood Association
Committee: Joint Committee On Transportation Reinvestment
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB2025

Written Testimony in Support of HB 2025

Submitted by: Carina Solis

On behalf of the St. Johns Neighborhood Association

Safety, Livability, and Transportation Chair | Accessibility Advocate

Dear Co-Chairs and Members of the Joint Committee on Transportation,

My name is Carina Solis, and I am submitting this testimony in strong support of House Bill 2025 on behalf of the St. Johns Neighborhood Association, where I serve as the Safety, Livability, and Transportation Chair. I am also a long-time resident of North Portland and an advocate for accessibility, equity, and transit justice.

The St. Johns neighborhood, located on Portland's north peninsula, is home to more than 20,000 residents and workers. Our community sits just one mile from the Critical Energy Infrastructure (CEI) Hub, which contains 90% of Oregon's fuel supply—all within a known seismic hazard zone. We are a historically underserved neighborhood, and yet we are being asked to shoulder an enormous amount of risk without the infrastructure to keep us safe in the event of a major earthquake.

The bridge in question is part of our designated emergency response route, but it is expected to collapse during a major seismic event. If that happens, our entire community will be cut off—from emergency services, hospitals, food access, and infrastructure repair. The consequences could be catastrophic, especially considering the potential for a toxic release from the CEI Hub.

We are requesting the Committee's support to allocate \$5 million so the City of Portland can complete the essential design work to pursue federal funding for a seismically resilient bridge replacement. Even with funding now, construction will take years. Delaying this work puts lives, livelihoods, and regional safety at risk.

This is not just about our neighborhood's safety. St. Johns is a major freight corridor, with more than 10,000 freight trips per day passing through our streets. The economic impact of inaction will ripple across Portland and the entire state. But while that matters, we ask that you not see us only through an economic lens.

We are not just a fuel depot or a freight route—we are families, elders, workers, and children. We deserve to be protected and connected like every other community in Oregon.

Transit is also a vital part of this conversation. Our residents rely on public transportation every day, and in the event of a disaster, it will be one of the only ways for many to evacuate or reach emergency resources. Transit access must be protected as part of any resilient infrastructure plan. Supporting HB 2025 is not only about seismic readiness—it is a matter of transit equity, public safety, and environmental justice.

Please do not leave us behind. Support HB 2025 and help us take the first step toward building a safer, more resilient future for everyone.

Sincerely,
Carina Solis
Safety, Livability, and Transportation Chair
St. Johns Neighborhood Association
Accessibility Advocate | North Portland Resident