



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

HB 3468

Chief Sponsor: Rep. Gorsek

House Committee on Transportation and Economic Development

Public Hearing April 10, 2013

3:00 p.m., Hearing Room E

Good afternoon Chair Read and Members of the Committee. For the record, I'm Chris Gorsek, State Representative for House District 49, which includes the cities of Troutdale, Wood Village, Fairview and Gresham.

I'm glad to be here this afternoon to speak in support of House Bill 3468 which would establish a task force on bridges maintained by Multnomah County in the Portland region. This entity would study funding solutions for day to day operations as well as seismic upgrades and other critical capital projects on regionally important Willamette River crossings in Multnomah County. These are vital transportation links for the entire metropolitan area and in these tough economic and budgetary times, we need to explore every option possible to provide a more equitable and robust funding model.

The Multnomah County Willamette River crossings on average carry over 27,000 vehicles a day and currently have a maintenance cost of \$2.7 million for the 2013 fiscal year. Multnomah County has identified over \$500 million in improvements and seismic upgrades over the next twenty years, with an annual need of \$26.3 million. Seismic upgrades are estimated to cost \$200 million alone. The capital needs identified are to keep these critical transportation links working and these costs do not assume any bridge replacements. These crossings are an important link for the Portland metro transportation system and should be treated as such.

I urge the committee to support this taskforce, because these bridges are vital to the Portland metropolitan region and developing a more stable funding source is needed to help maintain these important river crossings.

Thank you very much for the opportunity to testify today.

