

February 25, 2020

Dear Speaker Kotek, President Courtney and Chair Holvey,

Good afternoon. I'm Theresa Kohlhoff. I am on the Lake Oswego City Council and in addition to being the liaison to various city advisory boards, commissions and task forces, I am also the person who is a member of various ODOT, Metro and county committees related to transportation.

In short: I am on the R1ACT, (Region 1 Area Commission on Transportation); MPAC, (Metro Policy Advisory Committee); JPACT, (Joint Policy Advisory Committee on Transportation) and C4, (Clackamas County Coordinating Committee) including C4 Metro Subcommittee.

I am here to testify on behalf of the amendment to HB4017: Lake Oswego is supportive of the House Rules Committee reallocating the HB2017 funds dedicated to the Rose Quarter Project (which is not ready to go) to the Abernethy Bridge and I-205 Widening and Seismic Improvements Project which is nearly shovel ready. It is obvious that there is need for critical capacity and seismic upgrades. What is not obvious is an available and appropriate funding source other than from a reprioritizing of state transportation investments to this project while the public concerns about equity and climate impacts regarding the I-5 Rose Quarter Improvement Project are handled.

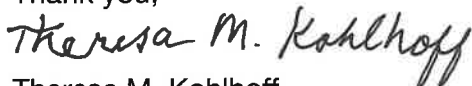
I realize that some of the concerns are congestion and its economic impacts, the additional costs accrued by waiting until 2023 to begin construction, and lack of quality of life for commuters. I don't denigrate these concerns.

What I want out of this, however, are: 1) a corridor prepared to accommodate transit alternatives, such as future bus service and 2) a North/South lifeline to provide supplies and services to the region after a disaster. Obviously the Abernethy Bridge is not now in a condition to withstand any such disaster. So to me, reallocation is a step forward for transit, so needed in these times of impending climate change and for safety when we may well be faced with a catastrophic event.

Finally, from my membership in these various committees I am aware that the Oregon Transportation Commission is adamant that the Rose Quarter Project must be done now, immediately. I am aware that there are more people in Multnomah County than in Clackamas and it is natural to lean towards providing services to the area where there are more people. The issue here though is one of timing, not one of need. The Rose Quarter Project is not ready and it cannot reasonably be jammed down the people's throats fast enough to warrant the Abernethy Bridge and I-205 Widening and Seismic Improvements Project to wait further.

Lake Oswego supports the legislative proposal to HB4017.

Thank you,



Theresa M. Kohlhoff