

Dear Chairs Gorsek & McLain, Vice Chairs Boquist & Davis, and Oregon Congressional Members of the Joint Committee On Transportation,

Thank you for participating in this Joint Committee On Transportation *Transportation Package Tour to Focus on **Maintaining a Safe, Functional, Efficient System.***

The officially designated emergency routes designated for 30,000 neighbors in North Portland are extremely weak and vulnerable.

When the inevitable Cascadia Subduction Zone Earthquake hits, or should we experience a train derailment like we recently saw in inner NE Portland, the only routes in and out of North Portland will crumble -- trapping the community without resources to hospitals, emergency support, or critical humanitarian resources.

WE NEED to rebuild two railroad bridges and secure a tunnel section to ensure the safety of our community.

Additionally both of these routes are also key freight corridors for Portland and the greater region.

The community is asking our 2025 Oregon State Legislature to:

1. **SUPPORT FUNDING FOR TWO BRIDGE PROJECTS IN PARTNERSHIP WITH PBOT**
A feasibility study of the impacted Columbia Blvd bridges has been conducted and PBOT is ready to apply for a grant as soon as they have the "match" funds. The PBOT budget cannot handle the amount needed -- approximately 20% of the estimated \$57 million required for the rebuild.
2. **PROVIDE LEADERSHIP AND FUNDING SUPPORT FOR ALTERNATIVE EMERGENCY ROUTE EVALUATION AND REPAIR**
The alternative emergency route on Lombard is in need of a feasibility study as well as leadership to move forward collaboration between PBOT, ODOT and representatives from BNSF Railway to address the work determined by the study.

Thank you for your time and attention, and your continued commitment to prioritizing the safety of our communities,

Jennifer Park (*she/they*)

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