

Hello,

I am writing to submit public comment for the June 4 meeting for the 2023-2024 Interim Joint Committee on Transportation.

The St Johns neighborhood needs an evacuation route in case of a big earthquake.

When the Cascadia Subduction Zone Earthquake hits, 30,000 people and businesses on the north peninsula of Portland will be radically impacted as our officially designated “emergency routes” routes in/out of Portland proper – indeed, our routes in/out of anywhere will disappear, unless we rebuild two railroad bridges and secure a tunnel section. Both of these routes are also key freight corridors for Portland and the region.

We need help from the 2025 Oregon State Legislature. Specifically:

1. A feasibility study of the of the Columbia Blvd bridges over the cut 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. *We need the match money!*
2. The other emergency route is Lombard and it needs, first, persuasion by elected officials for the heads of PBOT, ODOT and representatives from BNSF to collaborate on solutions. We assume this collaboration will take staff time and, thus, financing. Additionally, a feasibility study needs to be undertaken and that requires funding.

Thank you,

Matt White  
9636 N Kalmar St  
Portland OR 97203