

Hello, Members of the Joint Committee:

Unfortunately, I will be out of town for this meeting, but as a long-time (30+ years) citizen of St. Johns I wanted to express my views on a couple of different issues. The first is safety. I am a committed cyclist and pedestrian, but I understand that every time I go out, I am quite literally risking my life. This may seem like an exaggeration, but I can name several instances from the past week alone that assures me that extreme caution is always warranted--and may not suffice. I realize that many safety measures fall under the jurisdiction of PBOT, but I would like to see the state both fund and collaborate on making Portland much safer for people who ride or walk. I would also like to see improvements encouraging cycling, walking and taking Tri-Met at the forefront of the state's efforts to reduce congestion and increase traffic flow in the Portland area.

I also want to strongly encourage the state to collaborate with PBOT in retrofitting the exit route bridges out of St. Johns. As my fellow residents have no doubt made clear, households west of the railroad cut in St. Johns would be trapped--perhaps for weeks or months--in the case of an earthquake. In a likely scenario, the CEI hub would be a toxic disaster area, so there would be no way across the Willamette as well. The CEI hub is a reminder to everyone traveling down Highway 30 that the state has utterly failed thus far to ensure the safety of surrounding residents. Finally, we are beginning to see a little progress there. But the earthquake could happen tomorrow, no? It's time to ensure that in the case of an emergency, we at least can find food, shelter and medical help.

Thank you!
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