

Committee Members

It is well [documented](#) that the Pacific Northwest has a one-in-three chance of a megaquake in the next 50 years, an event that will have a catastrophic impact on areas west of I-5. Some areas will suffer more than others: Approximately 15,000+ citizens in the St. Johns neighborhood on the the North Portland Peninsula will likely become isolated from the rest of the city due to the [aging and seismically deficient bridges and tunnels](#) connecting the peninsula to the rest of Portland: emergency vehicles and supply trucks will be blocked from entering or exiting St. Johns, a neighborhood with no medical facility and only one small neighborhood fire station. Liquefaction of the soil surrounding the peninsula will further exacerbate the problem. Depending on the time of day an earthquake occurs, school age children could be separated from their working parents for weeks. Many of my senior aged neighbors will be separated from family and other caretakers they depend on for essential daily living tasks. Persons with existing health problems are likely to experience life threatening health episodes. Needless deaths and life altering injuries are likely to occur.

However **YOU** have an opportunity to alter this scenario by recommending that the necessary matching funds the Portland Bureau of Transportation requires to upgrade the N Columbia Blvd bridges be allocated in the state legislature's transportation budget.

This is the time to stop kicking the can down the road and build preparedness and resilience into our transportation infrastructure in order to save lives and strengthen a vital link in an identified major mobility corridor serving valuable industrial areas in our region,

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Linda Fields
St. Johns Neighborhood Resident

When I do good, I feel good; when I do bad, I feel bad. That is my religion.
-- Abraham Lincoln