

To the Joint Transportation Committee:

As you plan for a transportation package for the next legislative session, you must prioritize funding to strengthen the emergency routes to and from the St. Johns, Cathedral Park, Portsmouth and University Park neighborhoods.

When "The Big One" hits, which is inevitable, liquefaction will impact us on three sides of the peninsula we reside on. On the fourth side, a bridge over the railroad and a railroad tunnel under Lombard will collapse, leaving us completely cut off for an indefinite period of time. This means we will be cut off from our families and loved ones, emergency services, medical care, humanitarian aid and more, until the infrastructure can be rebuilt. Imagine how long this could take in the aftermath of such a disaster -- 6 months? One year? More?

These routes are also vulnerable in the event of a train derailment like we recently saw in NE Portland. These routes are crucial freight corridors for our region, connecting our Port to the rest of our city and beyond.

This is a diverse, lower-income neighborhood of 30,000 people. Oregon has an embarrassing history of neglecting marginalized communities, leaving people needlessly exposed to disaster. This is an opportunity to do the right thing, and by investing in these routes, you are protecting the health of our region and the city at large.

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 leadership.

Erin Flanagan
St. Johns Resident