

Hello,

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 Columbia Blvd bridges over the cut has been conducted by PBOT. 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. 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. Presumably, the study will also include the other two RR bridges which will fail, as all these bridges are over 100 years old.

This situation is incredibly frightening for everyone here. I am really concerned about being separated from family and medical services because of bridge failures. Also, due to the many highly toxic and under regulated companies in this region there is grave concern for the toxic cloud that will inevitably occur when the infrastructure from these companies collapses and in some cases explode.

There is a significant low income population in this region and so far it is quite clear there is racial discrimination at play with the lack of support and funding this issue is receiving. It’s as though the rail companies and people who have some control of our fate actually want us to die.

Please give us emergency support funding and don’t leave us up here to die alone when the next natural disaster strikes.

Jeff

St Johns resident