Hello!

Thank you for prioritizing transportation needs around the State of Oregon as we have many challenges moving forward with a comprehensive plan for our future transportation needs.

I am currently a candidate for Portland's City Council in District 2, representing North and Northeast Portland. As a resident of the St Johns and Cathedral Park neighborhoods on the Peninsula in North Portland, I see some very unique and costly challenges that we are facing that require some immediate attention to keep our residents safe and keep our economy moving when the Cascadia seismic event inevitably occurs. When an earthquake hits the peninsula it is 100% certain that every bridge that connects the north peninsula region will collapse of be damaged to the point of being unusable; endangering the 30,000 people who call the peninsula home with lack of emergency services being able to get to the area - and for residents to be able to leave for safer spaces.

My hope as a resident of the peninsula would be that the Oregon Legislature's work on the Transportation Package would be to include funding to support rebuilding and reinforcing the overpass on North Columbia at the Portland Rivergate port area so the Peninsula has at least one road area for residents to leave and/or for emergency services to get to the peninsula after an earthquake. Funding from the State for this project would allow PBOT can apply for funding from Federal Grants when we have at least a 20% match in funding for the Columbia overpass rebuild to ensure the project can be done quickly.

Having at least one pathway will ensure support for the people, businesses and the port which will need to be up and running as quickly as possible after an earthquake to help with emergency responses and moving supplies throughout Portland. This road needs to be a top priority for the Portland Metro region as we move for climate and economic resiliency.

Many thanks for tackling hard issues and creating plans for a better future for all Oregonians

Laura Streib