

Dear Transportation Committee members::

I understand that the upcoming legislative session will be focused on transportation. Addressing transportation's impact on Climate Change needs to be a top priority for the Oregon Legislature. Measures that encourage the use of bikes (e-bikes and traditional bikes), electric cars, and public transportation must be prioritized.

There is one kind of environmentally friendly, multimodal transportation that has been overlooked. That is a bike-ped electric ferry system in the Metro region on the Willamette, and crossing the Columbia to Vancouver. At the present time, there is federal funding available for ferry systems. There is also state-of-the-art technology now for low-wake electric ferryboats. In addition, there is newer hull design and advanced radar enabling ferryboats to successfully navigate winter storm debris.

One of the beauties of setting up a river ferry system is that the "roads"—the rivers—already exist. No lengthy construction period; no enormous financial price tag; and no major carbon footprint from massive amounts of asphalt, concrete, and the operation of heavy equipment powered by diesel are involved. As one person put it, the ferry system would utilize the "living highway" of the rivers.

This living highway provides such an appealing, non-stressful trip through nature—so different from many kinds of land transportation—that people will even ride the ferry for pleasure, rather than to reach a destination. A bike-ped ferry system coordinated with land public transportation—as has been embraced with enthusiasm in Copenhagen, for example—will serve commuters, tourists, and students on field trips going past the Goat Island heron nesting site to Tumwater Village at Willamette Falls or heading toward an exhibit at OMSI or other educational sites. It will serve all demographics, from young families to retirees to commuters of all kinds to cyclists out for scenic exercise. Riders can enjoy their morning coffee while relaxing on the way to work, or have a refreshing drink on the way home at the end of the day.

Unlike roads, a ferry system is extremely adaptable to changes in ridership needs. More docks, more boats, short runs or long runs can be matched to the needs of the time. Its flexibility is a big plus.

A bike-ped ferry system in the Metro region will lift our spirits and connect residents with nature and with their rivers. It should be a vibrant part of the Oregon transportation portfolio. It's hard to think of a more positive and exciting addition to our means of transportation. Imagine how people will feel when the first ferryboat runs commence.

The Frog Ferry system has years of research, data collection, and planning already accomplished. It's ready for its pilot project. It's ready to set a precedent for modern water transportation in Oregon.

Thank you for considering my views.

Sincerely,
Anatta Blackmarr
Oak Grove resident