

Submitter: Roberta Cade
On Behalf Of: Myself
Committee: Joint Committee On Transportation
Measure: HB2781

I do not support HB 2781. We have studied this before and found it is not feasible. And, we don't need another layer of government such as a bridge district. We know from past studies that the state won't help fund so collecting taxes on all taxable property, many of whose owners will never or seldom use a new bridge, should be out of bounds. Tolls and gas taxes won't be enough to pay for a bridge, especially as more and more switch to electric vehicles. Save the cost to study the need - use what is available from former studies.

And when I think of the costs of planning, financing, constructing, operating and maintaining bridges when climate change is real and we need increased bus and rail services, I am concerned about the short-sightedness. There are recommendations from the City of Salem's congestion relief task force for low cost improvements to address traffic and safety problems. Rather than invest in something that has been shown in the past to not be productive, let's look at effective measures such as increased access to transit, safe walking and biking routes, and carpools and work up to bus and rail services. Let's not risk inducing more sprawl and climate pollution by taking out farm land, homes and small businesses.