



March 23rd, 2023

Re: Support for HB 3323

Dear Chairs and Members of the Joint Committee on Transportation,

My name is Zachary Lauritzen and I am the interim director at Oregon Walks, a pedestrian advocacy organization based in Portland. I had hoped to testify in person, but having come down with a mighty cold, I am instead submitting written testimony in support of HB 3323.

It goes without saying that your committee is juggling immense fiscal pressures from proposed mega infrastructure projects around the Portland Metro Area as well as the billions of dollars in transportation infrastructure maintenance throughout the state. Additionally, it's no secret we need to prepare for a large-scale earthquake that would likely incapacitate most/all the bridges of downtown Portland.

Of these projects, Oregon Walks writes in support of HB 3323 because we view the earthquake resilience of the Burnside Bridge as one of the most critical. Not only is it important in the case of an earthquake, it is an opportunity to invest in low and no carbon transportation. Current plans call for allocating space to active transportation and transit, which means investing in low and no carbon transportation, something we must do in the face of the climate emergency.

Additionally, while not directly in the scope of this bill, I am noting two components of this project that are important and should be on the radar of members of this committee:

1. Planning will soon begin for the future of Sandy Boulevard, which feeds into the Burnside Bridge. Our organization sees this as an opportunity to prioritize transit through bus-only travel lanes and protected bicycle lanes. Plans for the Burnside Bridge currently prioritize both transit and bicycles and it is critical to connect these networks to serve people in east Portland.
2. Connecting the Burnside Bridge to the Eastbank Esplanade can be done via an elevator or a ramp. We strongly support a ramp and want to note that position at any and all opportunities.

Thank you for your service to our community and for your consideration of this bill. Please do not hesitate to reach out if you have questions about pedestrian safety and infrastructure.

Warm regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Z Lauritzen". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letter "Z" being particularly large and stylized.

Zachary Lauritzen
Interim Director, Oregon Walks