

Submitter: Mark Linehan

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Joint Committee On Transportation

Measure: HB2098

I support replacing this bridge, but oppose HB 2098 -2, because this legislation as currently written jeopardizes a right-sized Bridge Replacement, right now. I support the forthcoming -3 Amendment (and the policy recommendations offered by the Just Crossing Alliance) that ensures this replacement bridge project moves forward smoothly with explicit pro-labor provisions, finance guardrails, and major investments in mass transit.

The current Interstate Bridge Program is way over-designed. We need a bridge that's seismically safe. We don't need 5 rebuilt highway intersections. My understanding is that the bridge itself costs in the \$500M to \$1B range but the overall project is at least \$7.5B. That shows that what ODOT bills as a "bridge replacement project" is really a highway expansion project.

The project traffic need for this bridge is way overstated. Once tolls are placed on the traffic, the demand will go way down. So we can't rely on the current projections to decide how much new highway we need.

Net: this project is a waste of money that could more usefully be spent elsewhere.