

Submitter: Erika vonKampen

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.

We are in a climate emergency and need to take immediate action to reduce Oregon's emissions, of which 40% come from transportation. The bridge replacement as proposed would instead lock in more vehicle carbon emissions by expanding the number of car and truck lanes and deprioritizing mass transit. It would also subject North and Northeast Portland to more health-harming emissions and dangerous vehicle traffic.

This proposal would also take billions of dollars away (compared to a right-sized proposal) that could be spent on seismically retrofitting more of our hundreds of vulnerable bridges, or for other state priorities since this proposal would draw from the General Fund instead of the Highway Trust Fund.

In short, this is the wrong bill for the wrong problem at the wrong time.