

Submitter: Michelle DuBarry

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.

I am the mom of a 22-month old boy who was killed in a crosswalk on an ODOT road in 2010. The intersection where my son's crash occurred looks exactly the same today as it did on the day of the crash. When asked by a reporter in 2019 why ODOT has not added traffic calming elements to the crosswalk, which is situated on a corner with a grocery store, a school, and a busy transit stop, a spokesperson cited "lack of funding and competing priorities." (source: <https://tinyurl.com/3yy9mrwf>)

Car crashes were the number one killer of children in the United states in 2010 and nearly every year since. If the state continues to prioritize highway boondoggles over safety, there is little hope of reversing this trend. I urge this committee to take a close look at the recommendations of the Just Crossing Alliance, and support a right-size bridge that gives our living children a chance at a safe, healthy, future in Oregon.