

Submitter: Carver Oblander

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.

It seems to me that while this project has been marketed as a bridge replacement, this is actually a major expansion of the existing freeway infrastructure. I am deeply concerned about the sheer scale of funds that are being considered in order to build a bigger, higher-traffic bridge, even as other transportation and safety priorities in this state languish. Even more concerning is the use of General Funds, which will come at the expense of other state priorities.

The result of this expansion will be more pollution locked in for decades to come, a higher price tag with fewer funds for other projects, and environmental destruction, all while failing to "fix traffic forever" by adding more lanes due to induced demand.

Please support a right-sized bridge that will be resilient, climate-friendly, and people-friendly.

Thank you.