

Submitter: Matthew Tuckerbaum
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Joint Committee On Transportation
Measure: HB2098

Dear Co-Chairs McLain and Frederick, Co-Vice-Chairs Boshart Davis and Boquist, and committee members,

My name is Matt Tuckerbaum, I live in Portland and I am a technical Product Manager. In my line of work, I need to look for both exciting opportunities to develop new things and to consider how to sustainably maintain the existing products and services that my customers depend on. After researching the current state of the IBR project, I am deeply concerned that the current team sees only an opportunity for glory - to build the biggest and most expensive transportation project in our state's history. They seem to be neglecting the actual impacts and costs associated with their current vision for the bridge.

To be abundantly clear, I support construction of a replacement for the I-5 bridge - it is obviously crucial for us to have a safe and seismically sound link with SW Washington - but I unequivocally oppose HB 2098 -2. I find the current proposal, for a much larger and wider bridge with little to no space for non-automotive forms of transportation profoundly uninspiring. In fact, in the midst of a climate crisis with no end in sight, it is more than a little horrifying. Add in a heaping dose of fiscal irresponsibility and prolific "equity-washing," and it becomes abundantly clear that this project has veered way off track.

Instead, I support the -3 amendment because it can help to stop the cycle of freeway expansion and car dependency that is plaguing our region and destroying our climate and environment. This project needs to be appropriately scoped, to work within financial guardrails, and to prioritize a significant mass transit component that will help to shift local trips to more sustainable and accessible forms of transportation. These are critical constraints for the program to operate within.

Rather than handing this poorly-managed project an enormous portion of the transportation budget Oregon taxpayers have funded, I encourage you to support the -3 amendment, and rein this whole thing in so that we can achieve a more responsible outcome that works for everyone for generations to come.

Thank you for your consideration,

Matt Tuckerbaum