

Submitter: Jake Dutt

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Joint Committee On Transportation

Measure: HB2098

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

As someone who has lived in Portland my entire life and uses this bridge often, I want to see this project and my community succeed. I don't want to see our money wasted on a project which is over built and expands the travel mode that is the least economically, environmentally and socially sustainable. As our region has grown, the demand for travel has increased and we can meet that demand in other ways other than freeway widening. Travel demand is elastic and our implementation can match the cities, states and federal governments' comprehensive plan goals by prioritizing low carbon, low cost and high equity modes of transportation in transit, walking and biking. Through the tolling programs already being processed by both state legislatures, we can mitigate impacts to freight and other critical uses of existing travel lanes by reducing unnecessary car travel in pricing and incentivizing other modes of transport.