

Submitter: Tina Farley  
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 -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.

I'm terrified of the climate emergency and frustrated that ODOT wants to spend billions on a freeway that will increase emissions instead of investing in better local and statewide transit options, when 40% of Oregon's carbon emissions come from transportation!

I'm also concerned that HB 2098 uses General Fund resources to pay for a new bridge instead of bonding against existing Highway Trust Fund dollars. This type of financing directly pits this bridge project against other statewide budget priorities like investing in affordable housing or education.

I'm frustrated that the state isn't prioritizing investments in passenger rail, basic bus service, and other ways to get around. We should be improving mass transit for all Oregonians but especially for the 1 in 4 Oregonians who can't or don't drive.

Again, I support the -3 Amendment 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.