

Submitter: Sabrina Gogol
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 live in Portland and visit friends in Washington. I don't want more car lanes on the way to their house, even though it might save me a few minutes in the short term. In the long term, more lanes puts more cars on the road, which is more pollution and more traffic injury and then freight is still stuck. Why is Oregon even thinking in a short term way about such a big investment? How is it responsible in 2023 to invest so much money into a bridge expansion that will increase traffic pollution, traffic injury, and still bottleneck freight after the short term is over? If there was a bus rapid transit line or MAX to Vancouver, I would take it! The more people on the MAX to Vancouver, the more room for freight. Right size, smart transit is a short term and long term win for Oregonians.