

Submitter: Hayden Hutsell
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.

Adding more lanes to the bridge is a temporary local solution that will push the problem elsewhere. Induced demand has shown that traffic may go down initially, but then the same exact problem will pop up again, either in the same spot or somewhere else. I believe a modern society needs a robust transit system to thrive, and adding more lanes just encourages more people to use cars and make the problem worse. Adding more roads also requires maintenance, when existing roads and infrastructure is not looking too hot already, needing repair or upgrading. Spending this money to expand the bridge doesn't improve the health of the community, and is a mistake.