

Submitter: Aaron Wolf  
On Behalf Of:  
Committee: Joint Committee On Transportation  
Measure: HB2098

I support bridge replacement but oppose HB 2098 -2 and -4. I find the right-size right-now arguments, No More Freeways, and Just Crossing Alliance positions convincing important. So, I urge adoption of the -3 Amendment to ensure appropriate sizing, labor provisions, financial guardrails, and prioritizing of mass transit over private cars and trucks. We cannot afford to pass such an overstuffed bill or an oversized bridge. Both a fiscal-responsibility perspective and an environmental perspective clearly lead to rejecting the current bill.

In today's political climate, most people (including those from seemingly opposed partisan angles) have lost trust in top-down institutions. We cannot afford to simply bow to naysayers and fail to do important work. We need to update our infrastructure including this important bridge. Sometimes, we need to make changes and override the critics and then people will see that things are okay after all. However, if there is no room to adapt later or if the fears people have turn out to be realized, trust will erode further. So, I support taking bold action rather than delaying and delaying while trying to manage the impossible task of satisfying everyone in advance. However, I oppose making that bold action be of such a massive scale. The bridge replacement needs to be more modest and less car-centric, and then it needs to go ahead. By keeping the scope constrained, we can achieve important progress without overextending our limited resources and limited political capital.