

Submitter: Shelby Schroeder
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Joint Committee On Transportation
Measure: HB2098

I support replacing the current Columbia Crossing, but oppose HB 2098 -2 and -4, 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. We need a clean bill focused solely on the replacement of this bridge so we secure immediate federal funding and prepare to hold a statewide conversation about the rest of our transportation system in future years.

Here are more reasons to oppose the proposed bridge:

- 1) ODOT always goes way over-budget on projects, and Oregonians shouldn't bear that burden.
- 2) We are in a climate crisis, and should not be encouraging an increase in SOV commuting, but instead prioritizing public transport infrastructure.
- 3) Portlanders are currently driving on seismically-unsafe bridges and overpasses. The savings from reducing this project should go toward what's already in jeopardy.

Thank you!