

Submitter: Paxton Rothwell  
On Behalf Of:  
Committee: Joint Committee On Transportation  
Measure: HB2098

I support replacing this bridge, 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.

I am continually terrified that the public, as well as the Oregon Legislature, continues to blindly build increasingly expensive car infrastructure even though it's been proven that car emissions are contributing to the warming of our climate. Also addictive car use and continued access in cities like Portland is leading to more pedestrian deaths year over year. We need to replace the bridge in a way that doesn't further incentivize drivers to use the roadways in Portland. Building an oversized and bankrupting bridge (and I-5 Rose Quarter expansion) will lead to more people driving in my neighborhood which puts me and my family in danger.

Legislators I am calling on you to listen to reason. Enough is enough. And Lord knows we have enough car infrastructure. Save our money for education and housing.