



April 14, 2025

Joint Committee on Transportation
Oregon State Capitol Building
900 Court Street NE, Hearing Room 174
Salem, OR 97301

Co-Chairs Gorsek and McLain, Vice Chairs Starr and Boshart Davis, and Members of the Committee,

As the representatives of Portland City Council District 2, which includes all of north and much of northeast Portland, we write to express our support for House Bill 2749. As you know, the Pacific Northwest is overdue for the catastrophic Cascadia Subduction Zone earthquake. Our communities in Oregon face profound vulnerabilities in the event of such a disaster.

In our district, the anticipated collapse of four critical bridges would isolate entire neighborhoods, severing access to emergency services and medical care, separating thousands of families, and blocking the delivery of essential supplies including food. Without intervention, more than 30,000 residents could be left without access to vital support during an emergency.

House Bill 2749 acknowledges the urgent need for resilient infrastructure in our district, and lays the groundwork to continue design work to reconstruct the bridge connecting the North Portland peninsula to the rest of the city. A full reconstruction of the Columbia Boulevard bridge is estimated to cost about \$58 million (2024). A \$5 million allocation from the State would enable PBOT to advance the project to 30% design, which is a critical need in all bridge improvement projects.

This strategic investment will ensure there is an emergency access route and increase disaster resilience for over 30,000 Oregonians. For these reasons, we respectfully urge you to support House Bill 2749.

Sincerely,

Elana Pirtle Guiney
City Council President
District 2

Dan Ryan
City Councilor
District 2

Sameer Kanal
City Councilor
District 2