

From: Emily Refi EmilyR@waterleaf.com
Subject: Testimony comments for tonight's Transportation Taskforce meeting
Date: August 21, 2019 at 1:56 PM
To: getmoving@oregonmetro.gov
Cc: susan@frogferry.com, Abigail Bokman AbigailB@waterleaf.com



Hello,

My name is Emily Refi, architect with Waterleaf Architecture. I am here in support of Friends of the Frog Ferry.

I have navigated the city by every form of transit, by foot, by car and lately primarily by bike. As I cross the bridge each day, I take in the views up and down the river, enjoying a moment of cooler air and open space - it is by far the most enjoyable part of my commute. I whiz by congestion on the bridge, and look down to the standstill traffic on the 1-5 corridor.

There has got to be a better way.

Our rivers are an untapped potential in becoming the next armature of our regional transit system. It is time to move single occupant commuters off of I-5 and onto passenger ferries, to reduce congestion while riders can enjoy the views that a peaceful waterway ride provides.

In the Coordinated Outreach findings, our community has asked for new technology, for *clean* technology, and ways to navigate the region off-street. They are frustrated by congestion on the roads and long commute times. They want to see affordable transit that connects to affordable housing and employment centers. They want systems that work for people w/ limited mobility. They want transit to provide access to natural areas and waterfront.

And they want safety. With a city knit together by aging bridges and the foreshadowing of a major seismic event, we need the ability to move people over the water efficiently. A ferry system can increase our emergency response capacity and save lives.

Frog Ferry's proposal for a passenger ferry service beautifully and efficiently addresses all of these benefits.

As you evaluate the program of activities for the T2020 Bond, please consider including a passenger ferry service to the recommendation. It is time for Portland to join Washington DC, Greater Seattle, Chicago, New York and Vancouver BC in utilizing our waterways to move people, and become the world-class transit system it has every potential to be.

The journey often matters more than the destination.

Thank you to the Transportation Taskforce for your time.

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