



September 12th, 2024

The Downtown Neighborhood Association strongly supports Frog Ferry and its vision of a passenger ferry service on the Willamette River in Portland. We urge avid logistical and financial support of the non-profit Frog Ferry organization by private and public entities alike.

This proposal is thoroughly researched, eminently feasible, and urgently needed. At present, Portland faces the compounding crises of ever-worsening and crippling roadway congestion, a dangerous lack of seismic-resilient infrastructure, an epidemic of hazardous air quality in its most marginalized neighborhoods, and a downtown in desperate need of revitalization and activation. Frog Ferry addresses each of these paramount and pressing concerns. It is a vehicle trip replacement, a prospective seismic resiliency cornerstone, a GHG-reducing mode-shifting transit service, and waterfront and central city activator. It is the positive “win” that Portland needs right now.

Frog Ferry needs and deeply deserves increased support from our region’s public and private institutions. Frog Ferry has done their part for seven years. In that time, federal funds specifically allocated for passenger ferries have gone uncollected because the authorization of city-owned docks to be utilized for service was not prioritized; millions in local funds intended to go to non-profit and community-championed projects have instead gone to supplant the budgets of underfunded city agencies. The fact that the Frog Ferry team has moved this project forward to this stage with very little appreciation for its clear viability is both astonishing and admirable, but at this stage is no longer defensible. Leaders must now do their part.

This is a low-cost, high-capacity transit service the right-of-way of which will not cause displacement or cost billions of dollars to construct but is rather naturally-occurring: a river. Its separation from the roadway network will allow for fast, reliable service between one of Portland's most historic and transit-dependent neighborhoods and the region's dense, walkable downtown employment core.

It is the unwavering opinion of the residents, students, workers, and business owners of downtown represented by the DNA that safe, relaxing, and financially- & ecologically-sustainable transit like Frog Ferry will be necessary to bring about the successful revitalization of Portland's struggling central city. Workers need expeditious and enjoyable ways to get back downtown to jobs, school, stores, concerts, museums, and food. Frog Ferry will provide just that—with the added benefit of returning Portland to the transit vanguard with a unique yet effective, quirky yet proven innovation.

The time for Frog Ferry is now. We call on our community's leaders to support this vision without delay.

Sincerely,

Xavier D. Stickler

Mr. Xavier D. Stickler

Vice President, Downtown Neighborhood Association

Chair, DNA Land-Use & Transportation Committee