

St. Johns Neighborhood Association – SJNA
2209 N. Schofield
Portland, OR 97217
Email: info@stjohnspdx.org
501(c)(3) no. 90-0893007



September 11, 2024

To All Concerned,

Bellingham, Cincinnati, Weehawken, New York, San Francisco, Jacksonville, Boston: the list of American cities served by ferries is long and varied, but Portland, nestled between two beautiful, historic and deep rivers, is not yet one of them.

People in Saint Johns, one of the more isolated, and more diverse, parts of Portland, would love to have better transportation options. The Frog Ferry team has done much of the groundwork to establish the feasibility, operating and sustainability plans for a ferry system that would serve St. Johns and Cathedral Park initially, but could be expanded to have multiple stops in the area.

We strongly support these efforts. As Portland moves to a new form of government, it is the perfect moment to think outside of our old transportation paradigms and strongly support the establishment of a ferry system in Portland.

When this starts operating, there will be many benefits: travel time from parts of North Portland to downtown will be greatly reduced; the North Portland Peninsula, tied to the outside road only by a handful of unreliable bridges, will have a new option for getting in and out in case of a disaster; and, incidentally, Portland will have a new tourist attraction, and both Portlanders and visitors will be able to discover the beauty and mystery of the lower Willamette River.

We call on forward thinking leaders to support river transport, strongly, and now.

Sincerely yours,

Patrick Theiss
Vice Chair