

From: Eric MacKnight <ericmacknight@mac.com>
To: <citycouncil@cityofsalem.net>
Date: 7/30/2016 11:39 PM
Subject: A new bridge over the Willamette

Dear members of the Salem City Council:

As you prepare to resume your work on the proposal to build a new bridge between West Salem and downtown Salem, I would like to say that nothing I have read so far about this project would lead me to support it. Here are my reasons, in brief:

- The cost estimates I have seen are outrageous, and the means of financing those costs onerous.
- The benefits of a new bridge, on the other hand, would seem to accrue mainly to a small minority.
- If the rationale is to divert long-distance trucking headed to and from the coast, then 1) a crossing further downstream, not in Salem, would make much more sense; and 2) in that case the state and federal governments should finance the project, not the people of Salem.
- If the rationale is to improve traffic in Salem, then it would seem to make much more sense to invest in seismic upgrades of the existing bridges, while at the same time adding a package of light rail + park 'n ride + cycling paths + enhanced city bus routes that would make the downtown shopping and business district more easily accessible while at the same time reducing automobile congestion.

I appreciate you taking the time to read and consider my thoughts on this issue.

Sincerely,

Eric T. MacKnight
2240 Wildwood Drive SE
Salem OR 97306
Mobile: 626-203-7887