

**Bryan Colbourne - No Third Bridge**

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**To:** "Citycouncil@cityofsalem.net" <Citycouncil@cityofsalem.net>, "JWarncke@c...  
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**Subject:** No Third Bridge

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I am sending you this email because I don't think I will be able to attend the public hearing tonight regarding the proposed third bridge but wanted you to be aware that I strongly oppose the proposal.

A third bridge is not an effective, cost effective way to handle the downtown congestion that occurs at only limited hours of the day. Most West Salem commuters are going to or from the core downtown/state agency portion of east Salem. Even if a new bridge is constructed, they will still need to commute on this same route using the existing bridges since this is the most direct route. Thus, impact on traffic flow at the only time of day in which Salem truly has a traffic problem will not be significantly affected. Much less money can be spent to improve traffic flow with improvements to the existing bridges and ramps and enhancements to public transportation.

But transportation is not the only expensive capital improvement facing the city. We are considering an expensive new Salem Police facility (which seems likely to be approved in some configuration). Our City Hall and Library need seismic upgrade. And speaking of seismic upgrades, the proposed third bridge money would be better spent on seismic upgrades for the existing bridges — we need to make certain that this crucial transit artery is not compromised by the predicted Cascadia subduction earthquake. We have other vital long range projects that would be starved by the half billion dollar expense of a new bridge.

Finally, I am concerned about the adverse environmental impact of the proposal. These negative impacts are multiple, but I am particularly concerned about one — atmospheric carbon footprint. Proponents argue that the third bridge would decrease emissions because cars would not sit idle in traffic, but it has been demonstrated through study that a third bridge would actually increase, not decrease, long term carbon emissions. I owe it to my grandkids and future generations to oppose any public policy that has this effect. If you want to decrease traffic idling and thus decrease atmospheric carbon pollution, improve the existing bridges to improve traffic flow in the corridor that would be most used by West Salem residents.

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