

**Bryan Colbourne - Testimony on Land Use Actions, Case Number CA16-04**

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On Wednesday October 12, 2016, I attended the joint meeting in Salem concerning an upcoming vote on expansion of the UGB for construction of a proposed bridge across the Willamette River from Marion County to Polk County. As a resident of Polk County and West Salem, I am sending this email to express my concerns about this pending decision.

Nothing I heard at the meeting convinces me that an additional bridge is needed at this site. Numerous homes and businesses would be destroyed resulting in lost tax revenue, the Rosemont exit would be permanently closed, severely inconveniencing residents, and there is at present no sure method of financing the bridge and its construction. Additionally, there are no plans to strengthen the existing bridges to make them more resistant to an earthquake.

A retired ODOT engineer with knowledge of traffic patterns and bridges who commented at the meeting proposed building another bridge at the site of the Wheatland Ferry, which sounds like an alternative which would be much less disruptive and cheaper.

Although financing has not been secured, part of the proposal is to finance part of the cost through tolls. Polk County residents would pay tolls on all three bridges to pay for the new bridge. We use the bridge sometimes three or more times a day, and the proposed toll of \$1.50 each way would put a real burden on us and others. As taxpayers, we have already paid for the existing bridges. Why should we be required to pay to use them?

I urge a "No" vote on expanding the UGB for this project. There are other ways to handle increased traffic flow at a much lower cost.

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