



September 11, 2016

SCAN RESOLUTION OPPOSING THIRD BRIDGE

WHEREAS, the Salem River Crossing (SRC) project has spent over \$7 million and 10 years planning for a third bridge;

WHEREAS, the SRC project has not surveyed citizens' support for a third bridge or their support for new tolls on all three Willamette River bridges and higher property taxes that would be needed to fund a third bridge;

WHEREAS, the SRC Task Force worked for six years and did not reach a majority decision to recommend any of the nine bridge options it identified;

WHEREAS, the Project Oversight Team is asking the Salem City Council to adopt a Preferred Alternative into the Salem Transportation System Plan (TSP) that is not the same as the Salem Alternative approved by the Salem City Council in June 2013;

WHEREAS, adding the SRC Preferred Alternative to the TSP will harm about 45 homeowners in the path of the project by lowering their property values and discouraging property and neighborhood development;

WHEREAS, ongoing costs for consulting work alone have averaged over \$82,000 per month in the first half of 2016, money that could be used for other important transportation projects; and

WHEREAS, traffic management and bridgehead improvements recommended by the 1998 Salem-Keizer Area Transportation Study (SKATS) for the existing bridges are least-cost methods to improve capacity and safety of those bridges.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the South Central Association of Neighbors recommends the Salem City Council stop all work on planning for a third bridge in Salem and turn attention to 1) locating funds to retrofit the existing bridges so they are operational after a major earthquake, 2) review remaining recommendations from the 1998 SKATS to improve traffic flow and safety of the existing bridges, and 3) finding low-cost and no-cost ways to reduce single occupancy vehicle commuting during peak hours.