



# CITY OF SALEM

555 Liberty St SE  
Salem, OR 97301

## Written Testimony #3

### City Council

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**Monday, November 26, 2018**

**6:00 PM**

**Council Chambers**

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**5. a.** [18-531](#) Motion from Councilor Jim Lewis concerning the Salem River Crossing

Ward(s): All Wards

Councilor(s): All Councilors

Neighborhood(s): All Neighborhoods

***Attachments:*** [Letter received from City of Independence](#)

[Legal Memorandum Re: UGB Decision](#)

[Written Testimony 1](#)

[Written Testimony 2](#)

[Written Testimony 3](#)

*Add - Written Testimony.*

## Amy Johnson

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**From:** Bargen Jan <janbargen@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, November 26, 2018 3:32 PM  
**To:** citycouncil  
**Subject:** Please Vote NO on Councilor Lewis's motion tonight re LUBA response

Dear City Council,

I live in West Salem and I attended the last two West Salem Neighborhood Assn meetings, both of which included considerable 'new bridge' talk.

At the last meeting, Councilor Lewis said he will be proposing a motion at the end of tonight's meeting toward the goal of keeping the latest river crossing proposal 'alive', given certain June 2019 deadlines. His wife sent around an email pleading for support, which then got posted by someone else on the Nextdoor social media site and renewed old debates on that platform. I am asking you to vote No on my Councilor's motion calling for action in reply to the LUBA court decision.

I understood the Councilor to explain that, if the City does not respond regarding three issues remanded by LUBA, in time for additional process steps to conclude by a June 30, 2019 deadline, then the ongoing River Crossing project will be "forced" to report a "no-build" solution. Since "no-build" is my preferred alternative at this juncture, I urge a No vote now to avoid any further unnecessary time and expense.

My reasons against building the current proposal are many, but here are a few:

- There is almost no 'pie in the sky' money -- bridge proposal is too big and too expensive for the small population (Marion & Polk residents) that would have to pay most of it (roughly 80%?).
- Those who cry about the \$9 million or so already spent on studying river crossing possibilities are forgetting some Economics 101 -- those expenses are in the past and constitute 'sunk costs' -- do not throw good money after bad.
- Those who cry out that we have to build this proposal just because it is the one on the table and anything is better than nothing are desperate -- and wrong. This proposal is too colossal to build the wrong thing.
- The City's recent action to act on doable, less expensive mitigation recommendations is commendable. Such measures should be funded, implemented, monitored and evaluated before finalizing an infrastructure build so expensive as the current bridge proposal. The congestion pain Salem is feeling now is exacerbated because few such recommendations were implemented at earlier junctures in past decades.
- I know the "rush minutes" Salem drivers experience can be very frustrating, but those minutes are still way too few to warrant the magnitude of the currently proposed investment. If want to go to town between, say, 8:30 and 4:00, I don't think twice or adjust my departure time on account of bridge traffic, nor after 6 or 6:30pm. Westbound, I know that I might have delays getting back between 4 and 6:30pm, and I've found quite a few creative work-arounds. Not only that, but I usually find that just when I think I'm really stuck, the traffic suddenly gives way and begins to flow -- I don't think I've ever truly been delayed longer than 10 minutes.
- To those who say the lack of a new bridge stops people from moving to West Salem, I am an example to the contrary -- I bought and moved to West Salem from Northeast Salem in 2011, by which time the congestion was already considered so much that the Salem River Crossing Project had already started. It didn't stop me from wanting to live in West Salem:)

Most importantly, I don't want to Record of Decision to put forward a "build" proposal at this time because it could commit us to building an outdated and miss-designed - and still expensive - option way off in the distant future, if and when money does 'fall from the sky.'

Please vote No, in the even Commissioner Lewis makes his announced motion tonight.

Thank you!

Jan Barga  
1440 Beaumont St NW  
Salem, 97304

## Amy Johnson

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**From:** Tanna Cable <tannacable@wvi.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, November 26, 2018 4:15 PM  
**To:** citycouncil; CityRecorder  
**Cc:** 'timmcable timmcable'; 'Willamette Valley GAD'  
**Subject:** Testimony for the City of Salem Council  
**Attachments:** Salem City Council.pdf

To The Salem City Council:

Unfortunately, I am unable to attend the City of Salem Council Meeting this evening. Attached is a letter of testimony regarding the motion to respond to the issues raised in the Land Use Board of Appeals'. Thank you for considering my comments.

*Tanna*

### Tanna Cable Girod

Licensed Broker in the State of Oregon Since 2004

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My name is Tanna Cable. I am a Realtor with C Cable Realty in Independence and I am the President of the Polk County Association of Realtors. I would like to offer testimony that supports the motion to respond to the issues raised in the land Use Board of Appeals' remand of the City's UGB expansion decision concerning the Salem River Crossing

Population growth is the #1 cause of the increase of traffic and bridge use. Over the last 20 years Salem has seen a 20% increase in population and Polk County has increased 25%. Naturally, with that kind of jump in population, expanding traffic patterns is necessary.

The safety factor alone, is reason to move forward with adding a bridge. There are not adequate alternative routes in the event of a traffic stopping accident or a natural disaster that requires evacuation. The threat to timely emergency response during high traffic times is a major safety concern.

The need for better traffic flow goes beyond the increase of population. The commerce and tourism that Polk County and Lincoln Country draw depend on a reliable route to and from I-5. Companies that ship goods consider traffic routes before they expand into an area or choose to stay in an area. The difficulty of maneuvering through Salem definitely impacts the trade that exists in Polk County. Tourists traveling from I-5 to wine country or to the coast can come through Salem and visit the Capitol and experience downtown Salem or they can by pass Salem to avoid the bottle neck and come through Newberg or Corvallis.

Some of these companies or travelers that are investigating the Willamette Valley are looking to make a personal move. In our business we certainly hear that the Salem bridge traffic is a reason that a prospective buyer wants to avoid purchasing a home in Salem. They would rather purchase in Albany or Polk County to avoid the bridge traffic.

It is exciting to see the growth and expansion that has taken place in the Willamette Valley. It is a beautiful place in the world with opportunity and a great quality of life. As part of the growth that has occurred, it is time to improve the infrastructure and move forward with plans for a new bridge by supporting the motion. If this motion does not pass is it very likely that any possibility of a new bridge will be postponed for decades. Thank you for the consideration of our comments.

Tanna Cable Girod  
Broker

## Amy Johnson

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**From:** Molly Fink <mollyfink@hotmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, November 26, 2018 4:35 PM  
**To:** citycouncil  
**Subject:** Third Bridge

I am writing as a citizen of the Willamette Valley for my entire life of 37 years to implore you to move forward with a third bridge. I have seen the struggles first hand on a daily basis and have seen the bridge congestion problem get exponentially worse over the past 5 years as I commute over the bridge to work, from my home outside of Dallas. I approached my boss last October to change my hours to avoid the rush hour traffic because my frustration had gotten to a unhealthy level. Still the struggles persist. I feel like the city has gone tone deaf on the needs of the citizens of Salem and the surrounding areas. There is not one family that I know of that does not have at least 1 person in the family that commutes into Salem for work. I also can't help but wonder what the city will do when a major catastrophe brings down one of the bridges? This was something that was talked about 30 years ago and It absolutely defies reason why there is not anything in place today with a 4th and 5th bridge in the works by now. Oregon has grown so much in the past 10 years and will only get worse and the city's refusal to do anything about it is asinine. Please BUILD THE BRIDGE!

Molly Fink  
Get [Outlook for Android](#)

## Amy Johnson

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**From:** LeRoy Hedberg <hedbergaa@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, November 26, 2018 5:00 PM  
**To:** citycouncil  
**Subject:** Third bridge

I have been a resident of west Salem most of my life (75yrs). I remember when the second bridge was built. In the 1960's the state did an environmental study on a site from Market street...that was the first attempt at a third bridge. Now we have spent hundreds of thousand dollars on two more studies. Finally, at long last we have a chance to finally build the bridge. It seems that a very small group has put a monkey wrench in this one. These are evidently people who evidently do not see the need for such a bridge. I wonder if they get caught in the major traffic jam in the morning and the afternoon! The city has allowed major housing to be built in the hills of west Salem without a plan to move traffic along. Now I understand that they propose to put 30,000 more people in low income housing on Wallace Road. Have any of you been in west Salem to see the traffic already on Wallace road? evidently not. The third bridge that is proposed will alleviate most of the problems

As I remember the proposal to build a third bridge in the 1960's was a cost of about \$100,000. If we continue to put off the current proposal, think how much more it will cost in another 20 to 30 years!

PLEASE do not give in to a small minority of people who do not wish this bridge. Their proposal is mass transit...no bus that I have seen in West Salem has more than 2 riders...They also propose we ride our bikes...I do not see any of them doing so, They do not seem to be using the transportation they propose to burden us with. In my estimation, to say no to the third bridge at this is VERY foolish and only heaps more traffic confusion for the future. There is not a thread of common sense to turning down the only way to relieve the current and future problems,

Thank you for letting me give you my beliefs on this major problem...DO THE RIGHT THING!

LeRoy Hedberg  
1696 Porter Lane, NW  
Salem, OE

## Amy Johnson

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**From:** Cameron Hunt <acameronhunt@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, November 26, 2018 3:44 PM  
**To:** citycouncil  
**Subject:** Plz Support the motion

I unfortunately can not attend this evenings meeting but I'd like to say please support directing staff to prepare an ordinance and all other necessary land use actions to respond to issues concerning the Salem River Crossing so we can get a 3rd bridge in Salem!

Cameron Hunt  
Salem Resident

## Amy Johnson

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**From:** sgjnj94 <sgjnj94@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, November 26, 2018 4:54 PM  
**To:** citycouncil  
**Subject:** Salem River Crossing

Dear City Council,

I urge you to vote in support of the Salem River Crossing. The need for a third bridge connecting Salem and Polk county is great.

I am a resident of West Salem (20+ years) who commutes across the bridge daily during peak commuter hours M-F to my job in South Salem. Traffic has always been heavy but considerably worse the last 10 years. I have been stuck on both sides of the two existing bridges or on them many times over the years due to accidents (and a potential jumper) with no easy option to avoid the situation even when I know before I go.

Of greater concern is the difficulty our emergency services personnel face when needed and the bridges are blocked due to accidents and emergency situations. This must be addressed.

Please support the vital need for a third bridge to cross the river in our community. Thank you.

Janell Johnston

Sent from my Verizon, Samsung Galaxy smartphone

## Amy Johnson

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**From:** Olivia <olillis@msn.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, November 26, 2018 4:47 PM  
**To:** citycouncil  
**Subject:** New Bridge

I am in favor of the new bridge!      Olivia Lillis  
Sent from my iPhone

## Amy Johnson

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**From:** Andrea Pruet <a\_pruett@comcast.net>  
**Sent:** Monday, November 26, 2018 4:57 PM  
**To:** citycouncil  
**Subject:** Third Bridge

I am in favor of a third Bridge. I've lived in West Salem for over 20 years and have watched the congestion over the bridge steadily get worse. The last 2 years it has rapidly gotten worse and it doesn't just affect West Salem. It hurts out downtown businesses, commuters from various towns that use it and even traffic that doesn't even use the bridge. It's a snarled domino affect. As the only route to and from West Salem, there is no alternate routes. We can't bypass an accident or stalled vehicle. ALL traffic is funneled onto one of these two bridges and delayed, sometimes for hours. It is not safe, it is not sensible and it is insanity that our own city councilors refuse to represent the people of Salem. To push agendas of biking and using the buses, when that is NOT what we want, and is not even reasonable for the majority, is selfish. Pease vote for the 3rd bridge. I believe Salem has spoken. Will you listen?

Andrea Pruet

Sent from my iPhone

## Amy Johnson

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**From:** A K STONE <akstone4@msn.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, November 26, 2018 4:40 PM  
**To:** citycouncil  
**Subject:** In favor of theBridge

To whom it may concern,

Our family is in favor of the bridge.

Autumn Stone

## Amy Johnson

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**From:** Corinne Wallace <fivewallace@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, November 26, 2018 4:52 PM  
**To:** citycouncil  
**Subject:** City Council Meeting 11/26/18

I urge you to move the remaining LUBA requirements forward toward the completion of a 3rd Bridge! This has taken too long with too much politics. Don't risk our already spent tax money and future tax money from being wasted. I don't want to have to repay any of the Grant Money City of Salem has accepted in order to move forward in completing this project in good faith. Build it now.

Sincerely  
Rob Wallace  
2435 Dalke Ridge DR NW  
Salem, OR 97304

Sent from my iPhone