



[Home](#) / [Browse Council Documents](#)

## 739-2021

Communication

### Requested Agenda Type

Communications

### Request of Donna Cohen to address Council regarding routes in North Portland that would fail in an earthquake

Placed on File

A brief description of Communication:

I would like to discuss the routes over the railroad tracks on the peninsula in North Portland that would fail in an earthquake [according to PBOT] – leaving the residents of St Johns, Cathedral Park and parts of Portsmouth cut off in a major earthquake.

Since the recent Critical Energy Infrastructure Hub report indicates that in the event of a major earthquake the air in this area will most likely be filled with toxic smoke from the fires, that would leave us effectively trapped in a fatal zone. The city needs to take over authority of these bridges and upgrade them to seismic standards.

Since there are other issues related to the CEI Hub as well, as documented in the recent report, it is time for the city to join with other local governments to begin planning the changes needed to protect citizens in this especially vulnerable zone from the result of the earthquake.

### Agenda Items

739 Communications in [October 13, 2021 Council Agenda](#)

Placed on File

Draft Rpt. June, 2021:  
Impacts of a Cascadia Subduction Zone Earthquake  
on the CEI\* Hub

From: Multnomah County Office of Sustainability and  
City of Portland Bureau of Emergency Management

\*CEI = Critical Energy Infrastructure

“The Critical Energy Infrastructure Hub is a major threat to safety, environment, and recovery after a Cascadia Subduction Zone earthquake **on par with the 2011 Fukushima nuclear meltdown in Japan.**”



**“The Cut”**

**Orange = CEI Hub**

**★ = Four locations to cross the “Cut”**

**PBOT told me ALL routes are in jeopardy!**

**Pink Oval = St Johns and Cathedral Pk.**

St Johns / Cathedral Park residents will  
be TRAPPED in toxic air if the routes  
over the crossings aren't corrected!

# 1. PBOT should:

- Immediately evaluate the condition of crossings across the cut and craft recommendations for making them seismically sound.
- Determine the governmental / non-governmental authorities for each crossing and, if needed, create plans to change authority to the city.
- Community should be kept informed and receive interim and final reports beginning no later than three months from today.

*COMMUNITY IS STARTING TO ORGANIZE. PLEASE DON'T  
MAKE US HAVE TO HOUND THE CITY TO DO THE RIGHT THING!*

2. The City should begin work on creating a cross-jurisdictional committee to develop multiple concurrent strategies to mitigate the potential disasters.

*For example, we know that the majority of tanks are so old they will rupture. They should be upgraded.*

County Commissioner Sharon Meieran has signaled support for a committee to take up the recommendations from the forthcoming final City/County CEI Hub Seismic Risk Analysis.