

**From:** Zef Wagner  
**To:** [HTP Exhibits](#); [Rep Kotek](#)  
**Subject:** Please oppose HB 3231 new Westside Bypass  
**Date:** Sunday, April 02, 2017 12:27:56 PM

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Dear Speaker Kotek,

I'm writing today to urge you to oppose HB 3231, which would authorize a new toll authority to use eminent domain to build a toll highway through vast swathes of rural farmland and natural areas. This new highway would have massively negative impacts and would ignore our carefully crafted urban growth boundary, which has designated rural reserves that are not supposed to be developed. While I understand the need for better transportation connections, they should be considered in a holistic, multimodal manner rather than encouraging auto-oriented sprawl. For example, any new highway connection should also include options like commuter rail, light rail, or bus rapid transit so that people have an option besides paying an expensive toll for this Westside Bypass. There should also be bike paths for people who prefer to commute and travel by bicycle. In fact, if people had transit and active transportation options, there perhaps wouldn't be any need for a new highway connection.

In any case, this proposal could also have very negative impacts on our North Portland district, since it could lead to a new highway cutting across the peninsula and through Forest Park. This needs to be a public conversation, not something delegated to a tolling authority with its own eminent domain powers that could be misused. We should learn the lessons from the Robert Moses era in the twentieth century, when freeways tore through neighborhoods and ultimately did more harm than good. Let's not repeat those mistakes. As a professional transportation planner, one thing I've learned is that it is better to have a network of regular roadway connections and bridges with lots of redundancy, than to have a few major highway connections that simply create new bottlenecks and have more negative impacts. There is a better solution out there to our transportation problems than this short-sighted bill suggests...so please oppose this approach and work on smarter solutions.

Sincerely,

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