

From: Ben Weber
To: [HTP Exhibits](#)
Cc: [Sen Frederick](#); [Rep Sanchez](#)
Subject: HB 3231 - Testimony
Date: Tuesday, April 04, 2017 10:24:47 AM

Dear Oregon House Committee on Transportation Policy,

Proposed HB 3231, which would authorize local district formation in pursuit of public access highways would be an irresponsible step backwards towards creating a more economically vibrant, environmentally friendly, and socially equitable transportation system. I strongly urge you to reject the Bill.

Example after example nationwide has shown that building freeway lane miles does not reduce congestion, while it does go on to induce more vehicles on to the road, increasing pollution and other negative externalities. The Portland region (where I live) has a mostly admirable history of curtailing our freeway building before it was too late; let's not restart the downward spiral of endlessly building, filling up, and building more roadways. Scarce public dollars are much better spent on our transit, pedestrian, and bicycling networks, as well as exploration of new technologies (such as autonomous vehicles), which offer more sustainable, and lower cost transportation options.

Let's not be like Phoenix, Dallas, or Atlanta. The more highways they build the worse their traffic has become. Our economy is thriving, so it is a specious argument to say that congestion is choking our economic vitality.

Thank you for thinking about the future of our region, not reverting to failed 20th century car-first policies.

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