

June 5, 2017

Joint Committee on Transportation Preservation and Modernization
900 Court Street NE, Room 453
Salem, Or 97301

Opposition to Transportation Package, HB 2017-3

Co-Chairs Beyer and McKeown and Members of the Committee:

I am writing to oppose the Transportation Package as currently proposed. With the United States pulling out of the Paris Climate Agreement, it falls to progressive states to carry the burden of reducing Greenhouse Gas Emissions. While the State of Oregon has a substantial policy basis for this, this bill undermines those efforts.

Widening freeways and highways, even to "fix bottlenecks", has been shown over and over to be ineffective. Sure, there is less congestion on opening day of the new facility. But, soon, traffic grows to fill the new lanes, as people decide to take more trips, now that it's "easier" to do.

The net result of building more roadway lanes is more traffic and more Greenhouse Gas emissions.

I oppose the widening of I-5 in the Rose Quarter, the widening of I-205 in the vicinity of the Abernathy Bridge, and widening Highway 217.

While the bill does have a few good elements, such as increased Transit support, the damage done to air quality in Oregon, and to the atmosphere of our planet, is so great that the only sane and responsible response to this proposal is to ask you to withdraw it, and come up with a plan that is consistent with the State's commitment to reducing Greenhouse Gas emissions.

Thank you.

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