

Dear Committee Members:

The proposed transportation bill is nothing but a colossal waste of funding that will have us back at the same congestion levels within a few years.

The vast majority of the spending is going toward highway widening. It's anti-environment, anti-science, and anti-public health. It will literally worsen our air quality, literally denies the reams of academic research showing widening ultimately doesn't work (even bottleneck widening!), and will cause more road deaths and complications related to poor air quality along these freeway corridors such as asthma.

I'm wholly opposed to this proposal, which is one of the most conservative transportation package bills I've seen. I say that in all seriousness. Please compare to the packages recently passed in places like Seattle and Los Angeles recently. Those bills prioritize transit and active transportation to the tune of billions. This bill is appalling. It doesn't even help the freight lobby, because their trucks will be stuck in the same traffic.

I suggest converting the HOV lanes into a hybrid HOV/freight lane and using the nearly 1/3 of a billion dollars for the Rose Quarter "fix" toward making public transit more efficient on ODOT roads in Portland (BRT, light priority, etc), as well as public safety since those ODOT roads are statistically the most dangerous in our city and it's not even close.

I hope you will really consider whether you're serious about combating climate change, because a vote for this bill would be inexcusable in that context. As is the idea of taxing bicycles and electric vehicles. The very notion is absurd. There is still time to turn around this anti-climate change bill.

Regards,

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