

Dear Oregon Legislators,

I'm happy you are working on a bill to improve transportation in the state of Oregon. There's some excellent things about the proposal: statewide funding for transit, more investment for active transportation (walking and biking) and for safe routes to school and the possible start of tolling congestion charging (tolling) on our highways.

But, the vast majority of the transportation proposal is an investment in freeway expansions. This is an extremely poor use of our state resources. Freeway expansions don't relieve congestion, they tend to induce more driving leaving the system just as congested as before. But, with these additional car trips comes greater air pollution, more greenhouse gas emissions, more injuries and fatalities from that additional driving and worse health outcomes (transit and active transportation are healthy ways to get around).

I'm proud of the state I grew up in. We've long been a trendsetter when it comes to transportation. Let's not move backwards by investing a billion dollars in freeway expansions that won't improve driving times, but will make our state worse in many other ways. I ask you to remove the funding for freeway expansions from the bill, or to vote no on it as it is written.

Sincerely,

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