

Hello Jackie Dingfelder,

I am writing with concern about a local infrastructure project that has been in planning for quite a long time. I am speaking of the Columbia River Crossing project, or the I-5 improvement project as I think it has been re-branded. My main concern is with the scale of the project and the local backlash on the northern side of the Columbia river against inclusion of light rail. I am very pro-transit, and I believe adding a link of the MAX light rail up into Vancouver would go a very long way to alleviating congestion on I-5.

Additionally, I am very concerned that the project is being pushed through without any concern about induced demand. I believe that while the bridge should be improved, there shouldn't be massive expansion of the interstate and interchanges near and around the Columbia river. On the northern side of Portland, this would only lead to neighborhoods that are predominantly populated by minorities having much more pollution to deal with. This is a quality of life issue for people who are poor and may have less political clout to advocate for themselves.

I do believe that the bridge needs to be rebuilt; it needs to be built with earthquake preparedness in mind. However, the bridge needs to keep to scale the highway infrastructure in the area. We do not need wider roads, we need different modes of transportation. I believe adding the MAX line and NOT widening the interstate would be the best solution to continue to encourage people to choose other modes of transportation when traversing the region.

Please do not allow this project to go through without MAX included on the bridge. Please fight to stop the widening of the interstate in north Portland as well as on the Washington side. The numbers speak for themselves. People in our region have progressively used cars less as a means of transportation since the mid 1990s. Bike infrastructure and light rail as well as other modes of public transportation need to be prioritized over the mess that will be a widening of interstate 5.

I would love my city, Portland, to continue to be a bastion of compact city design with density as a key part to that. The less sprawl, the closer we can get to having a truly livable region for everyone. This goes hand-in-hand, as well, with improving access to housing for those in need. I believe people have a right to housing. It is a travesty that individuals who work 40 hour weeks at minimum wage can't even afford a studio apartment in this city.

Please take my plea to heart. Include light rail in the CRC and prevent it from becoming a highway expansion project that will negatively impact and drive out minority and low-income residents.

Thank you,
Jonathan Greenwood