

Patrick,

I am a resident of NE Portland and am greatly concerned about the current proposal for the CRC Highway Expansion project. As I cannot make the hearing tonight in Salem, please have my comments in this entire message added to the record. Thanks!

The current design is 'justified' by traffic projections made years ago, when in reality the amount of traffic that was projected for today is significantly less than what was expected.

If we want to create a future that is more sustainable than what we have today (which isn't all that sustainable, yet...), the answer is definitely not to expand miles of highway that will in effect cause the Portland region's urban growth boundary to be that much less meaningful - as the escape valve will be the bridge leading up to Washington's 'free for all' land ownership. The development that will occur up in Washington will be harmful to our region as those residents travel to Portland each day to avoid income taxes. Yes, freight will benefit from this project (which is very important) for the first few years, until induced demand takes affect and vehicular traffic clogs up the new bridge - just like all other major highway projects have shown in the past few decades. You just can't build yourself out of congestion.

There are many more reasons to be concerned about this project, one of which is how much money it will cost. Yes, our current bridge isn't the best design ever, but the current proposal costs so much money that it will impact other services that we could better spend our money on. Please don't allow our future generations to be impacted by significant debt due to poor planning for the future of our city/region/state/country/world.

Once again, I urge the State of Oregon to oppose this project, unless we are interested in securing large amounts of debt for our future generations, in addition to creating an environment that is more polluted than it is today. If those are the goals, then the current proposal will do a wonderful job meeting those goals, unfortunately. However, I haven't heard that the project's goals are to increase debt for future generations and increase pollution in our region significantly, therefore this project should be revised and not funded in its current state.

Thank you for your time, and willingness to listen to my concerns.

-Kirk Paulsen