

**Testimony to the House Committee on Transportation Policy
on House Bill 3231**

April 5, 2017

Gerik Kransky, The Street Trust,

Dear Chair McKeown and Members of the Committee,

The Street Trust advocates for healthy and thriving communities where it is safe and easy for people to bike, walk and ride public transit. We are opposed to HB 3231 and ask you to oppose a new highway and highway district in the Portland region.

HB 3231 authorizes local governments to form a special taxing district to build a new limited access tollway. The bill authorizes this new district to use eminent domain to acquire land, build the highway, and collect tolls on the facility. We think this is an inefficient way to address our region's transportation needs.

This bill could also be an end-run around the legislatively funded and locally driven Washington County Transportation Futures Study. That study is focused on meeting the transportation needs of Washington County residents over the next 20 years and takes all types of land use and transportation considerations into account, not just a single tollway running north and south.

This proposal for a road project is not an adequate solution to our transportation needs. Our shared goal is to reduce congestion, improve public health, and decrease pollution by reducing the need to drive alone to meet people's daily needs. It is time to start talking about a transportation system that meets the needs of all Oregonians for the next century - and that mean serious investment in transit, walking, and bicycling.

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