

The Portland area is getting requests for transportation projects that are too expensive for what they would accomplish:

1. I-5 Bridge Replacement. This adds virtually nothing to overall capacity and would contribute significantly to local traffic congestion. The real need is to address Washington County growth by building a new Columbia River bridge next to the BNSF tracks, with a connecting route to US 26 in Hillsboro. The I-5 Bridge Replacement would also result in significant tolls, with additional tolling needed in the future to correct the mistakes caused by it.

2. Rose Quarter Project. It should not be extraordinarily difficult to add one more through lane each way in the bottleneck below Broadway- Weidler Sts.. For a comparison ODOT has practically rebuilt and expanded a one mile section of I-84 in Troutdale for \$111 million. As far as correcting the roadway deficiencies in the Rose Quarter this should not be more than \$250 million maximum. The fact that it is now projected at 3x that much is because it is an urban renewal project pushed by vested interests.

The I-84 replacement and widening in Troutdale should serve as an example of what ODOT can do. It was cited in the Northwest Engineering Record as an outstanding project.

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