



February 25, 2020

RE: Diverting RQIP Funding

Dear Chair Holvey and Members of the Committee:

The Albina Vision Trust (AVT) has worked for the past 4 years to imagine a new kind of community in lower Albina, the historic center of Portland's African American community. We are committed to honoring what the neighborhood can become by being honest about what transpired there. Central to this history is the original construction of I-5, which physically separated the community and facilitated the loss of millions of dollars of stolen wealth. Albina Vision represents an opportunity to build towards a better and more equitable future.

The Rose Quarter Improvement Project has the potential to advance social, economic, and environmental justice by catalyzing necessary transportation infrastructure investment needed in the Albina neighborhood. AVT has spent the last year working in partnership with local and regional public agencies, elected officials, and other stakeholders to ensure ODOT will deliver a meaningful and complete project in a timely manner.

While this process is ongoing and will require continued collaboration, AVT believes our region is capable of doing the hard work to advance a new kind of transportation project – one that builds, heals, and educates the community. For this reason, we join our partners at the City of Portland and Metro in opposing the proposed amendment to redirect HB 2017 I-5 Rose Quarter Improvement Project funding for the I-205 expansion and Abernathy Bridge.

AVT recognizes that our transportation systems and the communities they serve are interconnected. To that end, we look forward to establishing long-term partnerships and finding opportunities to seek regional solutions, together.

Sincerely,

Winta Yohannes

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Managing Director, Albina Vision Trust
Albinavisiontrust.org

cc: Nate McCoy, National Association of Minority Contractors

