

Dear Rep. Sanchez, Sen. Frederick, and Oregon Legislators:

The Oregon Department of Transportation has not been a responsible state agency with the plan for the Rose Quarter, and the Cost to Complete is a perfect example of this. They have ignored the significant impact to local communities and continued forward despite objections from neighbors, community organizations, and local and regional governments. An astounding 2000 Oregonians have opposed this project in writing. The costs are spiraling out of control, and the project hasn't even begun.

We have so many alternatives. I think there are plenty of smart people at ODOT who know this, but, unfortunately, they're not in leadership positions. With opportunities for congestion pricing and increased emphasis on transit and infrastructure for active transportation, it would be fiscally responsible to hold off on this huge investment while we try less expensive, more sustainable approaches to solve the congestion problems on I5.

We don't have to expand this freeway. We can't afford to expand this freeway. Instead of chipping away at the backyard of Harriet Tubman Middle School, we should be pouring money and resources into helping the kids who attend that school, my neighborhood middle school.

I5 runs right through my neighborhood. We don't need more freeway and more spending on freeways. We need to be creative in solving these problems.

At the very least, we need to have a full Environmental Impact Statement to fully document the real impact of this project before we allocate almost a billion dollars to project run by an agency that's proving itself a poor steward of our resources.

Sincerely,
Joan Petit
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