

Speaker Kotek, Senator Frederick:

As your constituent, I appreciate your support for an Environmental Impact Study on the proposed I-5 Rose Quarter freeway expansion. I am writing you today, however, with a different request related to this project. I believe the time has come to repeal the appropriations for the project entirely on the grounds that ODOT has intentionally made materially false and misleading representations to the Oregon Legislature about this project, and the Oregon Transportation Commission has been complicit in covering up cost overruns.

I write with some urgency, because OTC may try to force this through without even an EIS in their March meeting. I also believe there is an opportunity for you, Sen. Frederick as a member of this Committee, and Speaker Kotek as Speaker of the Oregon House, to raise this issue at the meeting scheduled for February 27 at 1:00pm.

As background, this project was initially sold as a \$450 million project, Oregon [Metro has described ODOT's characterizations](#) of the project as "not objectively true and ... potentially misleading". ODOT left out key information from the Environmental Assessment and has ignored the vast majority of comments that were critical of the project. OTC tried to ram the project through without an EIS despite knowing that the cost would rise 50%, [which was reported days later](#).

Every step of the way, ODOT and OTC have lied, mislead and concealed the true information about this project, and has held meetings on short notice dozens of miles from the project site. It is clear, they don't want public scrutiny, which they are further showing through participation in an update to the JCT without public comment.

It is time. You must repeal the appropriations for the project entirely on the grounds that ODOT has intentionally made materially false and misleading representations to the Oregon Legislature about this project. The Oregon Transportation Commission has been complicit in covering up cost overruns and has been actively trying to limit public oversight of the project.

I look forward to your actions to end this wasteful project that is contrary to our climate goals. I think it is important when you do reappropriate the funds, to still provide some support to the same communities where the project was to be built. Clean Transportation Jobs are a more efficient use of our scarce resources because a larger share of the dollars go to local contractors versus large purchase of materials. They also provide more benefit to the local community with far fewer adverse impacts.

Sincerely,  
Blake Goud  
Portsmouth neighborhood resident