

Dear members of the legislature:

The Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) is responsible for the most dangerous roads in the State. However, instead of trying to fix these roads, they want to spend a lot (~\$1 Billion or our whole transportation budget for a year) on one mile of highway. This piece of road is not in bad shape or particularly unsafe, it just happens to be a minor traffic bottleneck in the giant traffic bottleneck that is the Portland Metro region. Alleviating this one interchange's traffic will not make a difference in overall travel times, just throw a bunch of good money after a bad idea. Perhaps if we were rebuilding after an earthquake this plan would be ok, but we are not.

I do not want you to throw more good money studying the process through an Environmental Impact Statement, I want you to throw this whole plan on the shelf and reassign those who came up with the plan to more environmentally sustainable methods of transportation.

As a part of this process, the freeway-building folks at ODOT have hidden data from the public and the press and even the legislature throughout the project.

Public comment on the project has been overwhelmingly negative. Despite ODOT's best efforts, there was an overwhelming turnout of testimony during its public hearing period. Based on my own review of the documents received by the agency and provided (grudgingly) in response to a records request, **89% were in opposition** and about 5% were neutral.

Most of the support cited misconceptions about the project, such as the reduced congestion ODOT admits will not result from the expense. The worst part of this project is that it is being sized to allow a ton more space for cars on the freeway at a time when we need to be reducing car infrastructure.

The City of Portland and TriMet just launched an effort to open the city to buses and improve transit. ODOT wants to break our streetcar network and delay our buses for half a decade.

Please revoke all funding for this project and stop it in its tracks ASAP

Sincerely,
Allan Rudwick and family
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