

Amendments -5 and -8 to this bill call for directing funding to the Rose Quarter expansion project, a projects which seeks, among other things, to expand the size of the freeways at the Rose Quarter, the Abernethy Freeway Expansion in Oregon City, and the Boone Bridge Freeway Expansion near Wilsonville. Traffic studies conducted over the course of decades and across the entire United States (particularly in our southern neighbor-state of California) demonstrate that expanding freeways does not reduce congestion or air pollution; rather it will induce motorists to drive more and eventually any abatement in congestion will return with a vengeance as motorists move further away and utilize their vehicles more. Emissions from transportation are the largest source of greenhouse gas emissions, according to the United States EPA. We're already at the 11th hour in the fight to prevent the worst ravages of global climate change. The funds redirected in these amendments could be put to better use designing transportation networks that actually reduce congestion or, better yet, reduce the use of personal motor vehicles by commuters. Expanding these freeways will saddle us with debt, increase pollution and traffic, and be a general waste of time, effort and money. We have to be smarter than those who came before us because we're running out of time to avert climate disaster. I urge the members of this committee to reject these amendments and to oppose highway expansion.