

Dear Representative Kotek,

I appreciate so much of the groundbreaking work you've done in the legislature, but HB 3065 will not be a feather in your cap. I cannot support freeway expansion in metro Portland - it assumes that there will be a similar number of cars on the road in the future and this cannot be the case. If your trousers are growing tight and you need to go on a diet, do you buy a new pair or do you cut back on the cupcakes? Similarly, we cannot build wider roads and expect to meet our carbon targets. Electric vehicles are not the answer. There simply are not enough rare metals to electrify all the cars on our existing freeways.

Tolling and congestion pricing do incentivise carpooling and smooth peak demand, but revenue should not be used for highway expansion projects and adversely impact neighborhood air quality, e.g. the I-5 expansion at Harriet Tubman Middle School. It all depends on your perspective: if you're a commuter from out of town, then Rose Quarter traffic is a hassle and you don't know anyone who lives nearby. If you live there, the idea of expanding I-5 means carving out part of your neighborhood schoolyard and giving you more noise, pollution, and ambient stress. Whose daily experience matters more?

When ODOT implements a tolling system on I-205, a large portion of the funds should be used to improve safety measures and transit along state-owned through-ways such as 82nd Avenue, Powell Blvd and Lombard.

Please triple proposed funding for Safe Routes to School. By way of an example: in the Cully neighborhood south of PDX airport we're missing six sections of sidewalk and a crosswalk between apartments along NE Killingsworth and Khunamokwst Park/Rigler School, just 8 blocks away. Rather than walking, 70 kids take the bus every day and we, parents are wringing our hands, trying to figure out how to cause simple sidewalk infill to happen. Similarly, last winter our PTA, Padres Unidos was invited to apply for the second round of the ODOT community pathways program, but it's not actually easy for parents to find a civil engineer to donate technical drawings.

There are plenty of obstacles to health and clean air in our region, don't let futile highway expansion soak up all the sorely-needed revenue that could support active transportation and a carbon-light future. Our kids are counting on us to build climate safe infrastructure - and highways are not part of that picture. It's time to grow and move smarter. Please see additional resources on active transportation and the shortfalls of fleet electrification here. <https://www.familiesforclimate.org/activetransportation>

Thank you for your consideration. We're counting on you to think critically and do the right thing by 2050 standards.