

Dear Chair Beyer, Chair McLain, and Members of the Joint Committee Transportation,

While I serve as Co-Chair of Bike Loud PDX, today I am writing to you on my own behalf.

I urge you to vote No on the -8 amendment to HB 3065. I am 29 years old and am very concerned about the long term implications of spending package for young Oregonians. As pointed out by many others, -8 will remove the bond limit and potentially put all tax revenue at risk in order to pay off incredibly expensive highway expansions. The -8 means revenue used to fund our schools, healthcare, and road maintenance in much of the state will be at risk so that people living in SW Washington have a few minutes shaved off their commute.

We cannot afford to risk so much money to have so few people benefit across our state. We have a housing crisis. We are bound to have tens of thousands of people displaced due to wildfires this summer alone. We have hundreds of bridges and thousands of miles of roads that we already cannot afford to upkeep. Oregonians suffer from some of the highest rates of drug addiction and alcohol abuse in the United States. All of these should and must be addressed before we go ahead and widen freeways for "congestion relief" (which will quickly disappear through the effect known as induced demand).

We already know that managing demand through congestion pricing is the most effective way to bring relief during peak traffic periods. Congestion pricing our existing roadways avoids the risk of putting my future and our children's future at risk, and prevents us from robbing our schools, our healthcare system, and our maintenance backlog of much needed tax revenue.

I urge you to vote NO on -8 and save future Oregonians from this mountain of debt.

Sincerely,  
Richard Sheperd