

I have lived in many countries around the world. There is no place where widening freeways created a net positive influence. More lanes equals more cars, more pollution, weaker surrounding communities, more damage to a middle school, among many other irreparable insults. This is a waste of money that should be devoted to getting people out of cars and into their own local communities. Making it easier for regional traffic to access PDX is not the future of urban planning. Nor is the future of a climate challenged world. This is a no-brainer. Charge tolls for peak use of the Rose Quarter area and channel the funding to transportation and education. Anything short of this will erode PDX's reputation as a progressive city while reducing the quality of life of its residents and ensuring that we are part of the climate problem, not the solution. Please show wisdom and an understanding of precedent to make the right decision. And never forget that I5 already destroyed many communities that never healed. Don't do it again. We must learn from our history.