

Hello,

I'm a resident of North Portland and I live 3 blocks away from I-5 and less than one block from Lombard, Oregon Hwy 30. Pouring more money into the freeways is wrong. I am sure you are going to hear and read plenty of testimony today about air pollution, carbon emissions, and the shortsightedness of pouring millions and millions of taxpayer dollars into reinforcing infrastructure for cars, at the expense of our most vulnerable residents, communities, and neighborhoods. I echo all of that.

I'm also an Educator in the Columbia Slough Watershed and it's my job to work with youth in schools around Hwy 30 to connect them with natural areas. One of the clearest barriers to accessing natural areas is: busy streets that are not freeways. Lombard, Killingsworth, Sandy Blvd, Columbia Blvd, Marine Drive, and MLK Jr Blvd are big, scary streets. They are loud, in the summer they are hot, giant trucks drive on them at 50mph and spew diesel exhaust into the air, and they're just not for kids. They're not really for anyone except for people in cars. ODOT needs to use its power to fund TRANSPORTATION OUTSIDE OF CARS. We need our local roads to be safe, calm, clean and easy for EVERYONE for use.

We are in the driest March-May on record and we are staring down the barrel of our forests burning out of control again. Why do you think that is?

It is wrong to continue investing in systems and infrastructure that have such clear harmful outcomes for climate, our watersheds, our air, and our health. It is time to DIVEST from freeways and INVEST in public transportation, cycling, walking, and safety.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,
Jennifer Starkey