

From:

Zachary Lesher

Why do you want legislators to demand ODOT conduct an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the proposed \$1.9 Billion Rose Quarter Freeway Expansion? Why should legislators on the Joint Special Subcommittee on Transportation Planning instead direct ODOT to prioritize investing in transportation options like repairing existing roads, improving traffic safety, and tackling climate change with transit investments?

Dear legislators,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

I am writing to ask that a full environmental impact statement be conducted for the Rose Quarter Freeway Expansion.

This expansion is deeply frustrating at a time when our region and state are facing one of the worst housing crises in the nation. We are long past the point where sprawl and suburbanization are capable of rectifying this issue, and freeway expansions represent an attempt to shore up this model of unsustainable development. Instead, we need to focus our transportation investments on walking, biking, and transit so that we can grow our housing stock through the financially and ecologically sustainable mode of infill development that our state needs.

This approach would involve ODOT prioritizing traffic safety, maintenance, investment in transit, and the prioritization of modes other than driving. It would also mean that any new tolling revenue should be put towards these same goals, rather than continuing to build out a freeway network that drains our state's budget and makes many pressing issues in our region actively worse.

Thank you,
Zach Lesher

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