

**From:**

Nell Westerlund

**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?**

I came to Portland as a young adult because I recognized it as a progressive place that valued health and the environment. Now I am raising my children here and continue to hope for the same world for them. Expanding freeways is walking backward. It has been proven over and over that freeway expansion only increases traffic and pollution. The answer is to put resources towards public transportation.

This extensive article by Eden Weingart for NYT lays out what a destructive waste of money and resources it is: <https://www.nytimes.com/2023/01/06/us/widen-highways-traffic.html>

"When a congested road is widened, travel times go down — at first. But then people change their behaviors. After hearing a highway is less busy, commuters might switch from transit to driving or change the route they take to work. Some may even choose to move farther away."

Please do not support freeway expansion.

Thank you,

Nell Westerlund

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