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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,

Please demand a full environmental impact statement (EIS) for ODOT's Rose Quarter freeway project. It is unconscionable that this is not an automatic requirement in the era of climate crisis. There is no time to waste in making decarbonization of our transportation system the highest priority, and ODOT does not seem to comprehend this urgency. Further, ODOT does not seem to acknowledge the concept of induced demand. We know that adding freeway lanes does not improve traffic — more vehicles will use the expanded freeway and congestion will not be alleviated. I urge you to use your position to stop the madness of an extremely expensive freeway widening. Instead, funding should be directed towards climate and people-friendly improvements to our transportation network, prioritizing alternatives to personal vehicle use.

We can achieve a system where we will be able to safely navigate our region without ever relying on a personal vehicle. I hope that my children and their generation can count on you to prioritize their future and a safe climate. When our incredible youth activists are sacrificing their school and leisure time to protest ODOT's negligence, you know that something is very wrong. Please be one of the adults who will do whatever you can to make things right.

With regards to ODOT's tolling plans, please ensure that funding from tolls will be allocated to needed infrastructure repairs and improvements to existing roadways, accessibility measures, and climate action measures. No funds should be allowed to fund additional car-centric construction. Congestion pricing is an important step towards reducing our emissions, so please make sure it is done properly, and not used as a tool for perpetuating the status quo.

Thank you in advance for listening to community advocates and requiring a full EIS on the Rose Quarter project. I am writing this comment while rocking my newborn baby to sleep and I desperately hope that you will prioritize her future and that of her peers in your work.

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