

From:

Scott Murray

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?

To the subcommittee:

Generations of Oregonians have already suffered. The current configuration of I-5 has cut us off from the waterfront, making an inspiring natural resource complete inaccessible. The BIPOC neighborhoods that thrived on the East side of Portland in the 1950s are already demolished, severed, irreplaceable. Those harms are already done, in the past, yet they ineffably shape our present-day lives.

Why further compound these tragedies for future generations?

It is unthinkable to double-down on 1950s values — of active racism, of disregard for environmental impact and quality-of-life concerns — when we are here, 70 years later, facing a climate crisis, caused in large part by, yes, burning fossil fuels to power vehicles along freeways.

We need new, humane solutions — not more of the same flawed thinking that got us into this mess.

Sincerely,
Scott Murray

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