



Date Saturday December 2

To: Special Subcommittee on Transportation Planning

From: Jonathan Greenwood, Portland Neighbors Welcome

Subject: Align Transportation Investments to Support Abundant Housing, abandon proposed Rose Quarter Freeway Expansion

Hello Transportation Revenue Subcommittee, my name is Jonathan Greenwood, and I am speaking on behalf of Portland: Neighbors Welcome. Our organization is a housing justice focused nonprofit that pushes for policies and investments that promote housing affordability and stability, and strives for an Oregon in which every city and neighborhood across the state is accessible for Oregonians at all wages, stages and ages. You might be surprised to hear a group primarily focused on land use and housing zoning reform testifying at today's hearing, but we at Portland: Neighbors Welcome strongly believe that we need meaningful reform of our transportation investments to more efficiently and effectively build the tens of thousands of homes that Governor Kotek and the Oregon Housing Needs Analysis have identified as goals for the state.

The billions of dollars spent on freeway expansions like the Rose Quarter should instead be directed toward building dense, walkable neighborhoods connected by frequent and reliable transit. This paradigm shift makes it easier for abundant housing, both market-rate and affordable, to be located in our transit-accessible communities. I personally live in a triplex in North Portland in a fairly transit and service-rich neighborhood. We just want this to be the case for every Portlander. Expansion of transit would also support car-free neighborhoods and ease pollution from cars. People would also have more options including walking and biking in complete, dense neighborhoods. Capping the interstate will also add productive land to build housing. Conversely, widening I-5 would take up land for an unproductive use and create an even more polluted Rose Quarter. We believe that we should not be widening freeways anymore and money coming from tolling should go towards building the safer streets needed to support the neighborhoods that can accommodate abundant housing. Please heed our call and develop our city in a way from which future generations will benefit. Make Portland an example for the country and the world as a place that houses everyone and provides green, world-class public transit.

www.portlandneighborswelcome.org

Twitter: @pnwelcome Instagram: @portlandneighborswelcome