

Hello Senators and Representatives

I am Allan Rudwick from the Eliot neighborhood association and while we are strongly supportive of the congestion pricing I want to focus on the Rose Quarter Expansion Project.

I just read a research paper that said the only way to support a mixed use urban neighborhood is with a dense grid of streets. When I-5 went into the mixed use urban neighborhood that existed between the steel and Broadway bridges, it dead ended more than 20 streets. The Oregon convention center and memorial coliseum finished the job of destroying that community. I-5 created huge gaps for crossing the freeway.

When the project was originally proposed many years ago it was a simple plus one lane project. The City organized a process in which many in the neighborhoods were consulted. We wanted to help come over the project that would fit into the city and help it thrive. The project that came out of that was something that we could vote no, but not be incredibly mad about. New connections north and south of Broadway. Direct, useful connections that would actually go through like the Hancock-Dixon and the Clackamas over crossings.

Then ODOT got their hands on the project in the absence of public input. Not only were these elements removed, but the proposed highway has gone from 1.5 times wider to three times wider than what we currently have since then. Sure, the covers look like they are growing also, but bringing this many cars in and keeping the neighborhood disconnected are going to be fatal flaws for bringing urban life back.

No one seems to be pushing back on this massive vehicle infrastructure mindset. Data shows that the more space we make for cars, the more cars we get. Who is focusing on just how many cars ODOT is predicting will show up after this thing is built.

The number is unacceptably large.

Just like the air pollution from I-5 is unacceptably high.

Just like the cost number is unacceptably large.

We must kill this project. You must kill it. Remove funding now. For Portland.

Thank you

Sincerely

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