

From:

John Giacoppe

What do you want to tell legislators about the proposed \$1.9 Billion Rose Quarter Freeway Expansion and Oregon's transportation system?

It is abundantly clear that we cannot build our way out of road congestion. Ever-increasing traffic in Portland is a serious problem, but just adding more lanes only brings us more drivers to fill the space we've created. Bigger roads aren't safer or faster for terribly long. We now know, also, that freeway capacity expansions increase our greenhouse gas emissions, and we cannot afford to warm the planet any further. Any undertaking by our government which threatens to raise our emissions is something that needs to be thoroughly audited, something we need to establish is unavoidable if we are to meet the challenge of climate change.

Accordingly, a project like the Rose Quarter expansion should be subject to the greatest possible scrutiny. We need to know that expanding this freeway will truly give us benefits worthy of the costs – and we need to know exactly what those costs are, so that we can begin building in mitigation efforts to other projects. We cannot afford to be hasty at this stage in Earth's history. It would be better to abandon a costly, climate-damaging project and redirect the funding elsewhere if we cannot be sure it will give us the safety and efficiency improvements we need in the Portland area. Please conduct an Environmental Impact Survey of the Rose Quarter project.