

From:

Stephanie Byrd

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

As an involved citizen of Portland, and a mother of two children who will bear the cost of your decisions for decades to come, I plead with you to rethink the Rose Quarter Freeway Expansion. Here are my requests:

1) Legislators should demand ODOT revisit the Purpose and Need statement and conduct a full Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) that studies alternatives to freeway expansion. Could we accomplish the Albina Vision at a lower cost by capping the current lanes? The ideal EIS scope would be ODOT's entire Urban Mobility Strategy, including both pricing and construction projects, looking at multiple alternatives to using tolling to expand freeways.

2) Let's take the common sense approach of pricing before we build. ODOT's Supplemental Environmental Assessment makes it clear that pricing has as much or more impact on reducing congestion than adding auxiliary lanes. Let's design the project needed in the world we have now, not a 1950s fantasy. A pricing level to manage congestion is likely to be lower than a toll required to fund expansion projects.

3) Any low income benefit should be multimodal. We must have transit or bike/ped options. The legislature must aggressively pursue resources to not just make transit affordable to all Oregonians but make it attractive to all Oregonians, primarily by dramatically increasing TriMet service frequency.

Let's use our resources instead to reimagine Oregon's entire statewide transportation system. Investments in fixing orphan highways will address the skyrocketing rate of traffic fatalities. Prioritizing investment in maintenance in local and statewide roads, along with addressing ODOT's 700+ seismically vulnerable bridges, will make our streets safer and improve commerce. Investments in transit will give Portlanders cleaner air to breathe, and provide mobility options for the 1 in 4 Oregonians who don't drive.

Thank you for your dedication to public service and your attention to my concerns.

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