

**From:**

Zachery Christoff

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

As a healthcare provider who commutes from Ridgefield to east Portland every day, the idea of ODOT investing ANY money in expanding car infrastructure is extremely antithetical to the needs of Portlanders, as well as completely unacceptable from the perspective of addressing the climate crisis. It is vital that ODOT further reviews environmental data for this giga project with a full Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). The consequences of car infrastructure such as local pollution, carbon emissions, exacerbating houselessness, perpetuating systemic inequities, etc are clear all over the world. Land use in a dense, urban area must be considered completely different from non-urban locations as all of these negative consequences affect an exponentially greater number of people. There is a long history of Portland locals opposing freeways and freeway expansion in favor of cleaner, more efficient means of transportation. Portland was way ahead of its time when it initially invested in public transit and subsequent investments have made Portland the amazing city to which I cannot wait to move. If anything is to come from the completion of this project, it is incentivizing people to move to Washington and commute by car in Portland. This would not only be disastrous for Portland and Oregon environmentally, but also economically as more people move out of state where they feel they can more easily access Portland by car. From me and many of my colleagues in the healthcare sector, I strongly urge ODOT to completely reconsider the Rose Quarter project and, at the very least, complete an EIS on the project.