

From:

Sasha Reid

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

The city of Portland and Oregon Department of Transportation need to take the impact of vehicular travel on the climate seriously. There is no number of highway lanes that will improve traffic and reduce pollution. It is astounding to me that despite the excellent example within our own city of the removal of the Harbor Drive and its positive impact on the city, and the positive reparative hopes of Albina Vision that we are continuing forward even one single step with adding lanes through the heart of the former city of Albina. All of this money could be better used in improving any other part of the city infrastructure, adding sidewalks to the neglected east portland neighborhoods, actually making material progress towards Vision Zero, or investing in improvements to the Steel Bridge for higher transit throughput for the MAX lines that run over it. It is an appalling slap in the face to the people who reside in these neighborhoods and want to breathe clean air that ODOT is continuing down this dark road of highway expansion. One need only look to the Katy Freeway outside of Houston for an excellent example of how adding additional lanes makes no improvement to traffic, if none of these other reasons are compelling enough.