

Dear Chairs and Committee Members,

I'm writing to you as a parent and constituent concerned about the inability of our transportation policies to meet Oregon's climate goals. ODOT's plans to use tolling revenue to fund additional freeway capacity do not align with a reduction of vehicle miles traveled and will jeopardize our ability to reduce our greenhouse gas emissions to the extent we need. Now more than ever, Oregonians need our leaders to have the courage to break through the automobile dependence that contributes to the financial struggles of middle and low-income families, exacerbates respiratory illnesses of those living near busy roads and interstates, contributes to the spike in traffic fatalities and severe injuries, hollows out entire neighborhoods, locks our state into decades of expensive road maintenance costs, and keeps us from moving the needle on transportation-related carbon emissions reductions to the detriment of our children's futures.

I fully support congestion pricing, but any pricing scheme must be carefully studied and have the intention of shifting mode share to more sustainable options like public transit, biking and walking, rather than committing to more of the car-centric infrastructure that has devastated our country and our community for decades.

Thank you,
Melissa Kostelecky
Woodstock resident (97206) and parent of two