

From:

John Carr

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

I urge legislators to demand that ODOT conduct an Environmental Impact Statement for the proposed Rose Quarter Freeway Expansion project.

Living along the Powell corridor in SE Portland, I can attest to a shocking increase in traffic deaths on this orphaned state highway. Our neighborhood association has convened multiple meetings with our State Representative and with representatives from ODOT, PBOT, TriMet, and the Portland Police Bureau. All cited a lack of funding as the main reason why this arterial remains unsafe — for all users, but particularly for pedestrians and those trying to access schools and transit. Meanwhile, ODOT is proposing to spend \$1.9 billion to widen a scar through the Rose Quarter and the Albina neighborhood.

What I would like to see is true restoration for the Albina neighborhood (highway caps without additional traffic lanes); proper maintenance of existing roadways and bridges; and transportation investments that lower emissions, reduce fatalities (vs. fender benders), and improve mobility within the Portland Metro (vs. simply through it). To get there, we first need to know the real cost and impacts of what ODOT is proposing.