

From:

Ruth Campbell

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

I am writing to request that ODOT conduct a full Environmental Impact Statement for the proposed Rose Quarter freeway expansion.

The EIS must consider alternatives that include investing in transit and protected bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure as alternatives to driving for local trips – safe and healthy long-term solutions to dealing with vehicle congestion.

I know firsthand that much of the vehicle traffic in the I-5 Rose Quarter area is local trips that do not need a freeway. Growing up in inner Northeast Portland, my family's daily routine, and the routines of many of my neighbors and friends, frequently included taking I-5 just across the river to downtown workplaces and schools. These are journeys of 3 or 4 miles that could conveniently be taken on transit or an e-bicycle if only the transit frequency and safety infrastructure available gave our families the confidence to rely on these systems instead. Many families, including myself and my partner, already use these systems, and many more would be free to consider this same option with further transit and safe pedestrian infrastructure investment. These are also journeys that could today be taken in vehicles on numerous other local roads with minimal difference in timing, and very likely would be if congestion pricing were implemented to reduce freeway congestion for true interstate and long-haul freight traffic.

In a world where today's predominantly gas-powered vehicle fleet will be on the road for decades to come, this freeway expansion is fossil fuel infrastructure at a time when our planet depends on fossil fuel divestment. Investing in freeway expansion is investing in creating more new drivers in the inner city that so many of us call home – where we breathe, walk, and play. I fear these new I-5 drivers will simply re-create the old congestion at the cost of the health and safety of the community and the planet.

Please request that ODOT conduct an EIS for the proposed Rose Quarter project that fully explores alternatives to freeway expansion.

Thank you,
Ruth Campbell