

From:

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

\$1.9 billions dollars is such a sum of money that it could actually create real change for the Oregonians who need it most. And isn't that what our government should aim to do? I'm sure that is why this project was proposed, to make commutes and travel easier for the typical Oregon constituent. I hope that you will hear us speak when we thank you for that core intention but explain that this is not the change we want. In fact, the difficulty this proposal would bring to our lives is more than the possible convenience it could provide.

I for one am very concerned about increased air pollution and carbon emissions that would occur from expanding the freeway. Especially in Albina, a neighborhood with such history of oppression, a freeway expansion should be the last priority. We need to focus on restoration, funding programs that might help heal some of the lasting trauma of the neighborhood. Even if you would argue this is sacrificing quality of life for the few, for the good of the many, that just is not true. So many Oregonians rely on the Department of Transportation on their daily commute on public transportation. And those systems are just not where they need to be. As a young woman who rides it almost everyday, take it from me when I say we have a flawed public transportation system. There is so much potential for such an instrumental system to be so much safer and more efficient, which would do so much more good for Oregon than more lanes in a freeway.

I never feel safe on the bus or Max, I've been verbally assaulted, sexually harassed, seen people do meth and then get up to yell at me for looking at them too long. To get to my work only 20 minutes away by car I have to take 3 buses and travel for over an hour. This is not sustainable for me, or the countless other citizens who rely on public transport to go on with their lives. I urge you to put money into this system instead. To make us more safe, have busses come more frequently so young women are not stuck waiting alone in the dark, unable to get home. Make it so I feel safe to bring my little sister on the bus. Make it safe for all the children whose parents don't have the luxury of a choice not to.

There are options other than this proposal, adding tolls to freeways have been proven to reduce traffic, and therefore could eliminate the need for this proposed expansion. As long as the tolls are used with a mind to minimize traffic and not to maximize profits. Then there would be less air pollution, less carbon emissions, there would not be a harmful construction project in one of our most vulnerable neighborhoods, and that \$1.9 billions dollars could go towards projects that would change day to day life for so many people.

For myself and all future generations, please think of the environmental impact this expansion would have. Please help heal the decades of disinvestment in the public transportation system, for the people who truly need your help. Please do not add to the oppression of the Albina neighborhood. Please listen to your constituents, and create the change we are asking for.