

From:

Nathan Berres

Email:

nathan.berres@gmail.com

Location:

NW Portland

Submitted written testimony to the Joint Committee on Transportation for the 6/4 Roadshow Hearing:

Hello,

I would like to stress the importance of prioritizing funding towards transportation projects that increase safety and sustainability. Utilizing money to fund greater public transportation initiatives around the state would do so much for promoting, encouraging, and providing an opportunity for people to travel to their destinations at a greatly reduced cost compared to a private vehicle alongside being much safer in the hands of a trained professional.

Using funds to create a truly multi-modal transportation state would make us a model showcase to the nation of what is possible when we reduce our reliance on cars and embrace more sustainable modes of transportation instead. A majority of the states throughout this country are already so deep into freeways as the "peak" form of transportation infrastructure. We have an immense amount of evidence that showcases this is not an effective way for humans to travel to destinations within their lived in environments. Putting money towards freeway infrastructure will only create more pollution, greater debt, and additional tire particles. We already have the solutions right in front of us to create a more equitable and sustainable transportation network. Utilizing money towards public transportation, (e.g. busses, trains, streetcars, light rail), creating safe and separated bike lanes, and engineering our city streets to be safer through their design (and not just signs), are for more effective use cases for tax payer dollars than building new infrastructure towards the most inefficient mode of travel we've been become so dependent on in this day in age – cars.

I implore you to consider the future of our state when determining where money is utilized for transportation projects. We know what is sustainable both environmentally and economically. We know what can be done to create safer streets. It is up to you as our state leaders to hopefully be brave enough to make the bold decisions to stray from the status quo.

I hope we can see prioritization towards public transportation, safer bike infrastructure, and safer streets throughout our state in the 2025 transportation package, instead of freeway expansion.

Thank you.