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

Oregon has a well-deserved reputation as one of the most progressive states in America; I often joke that we're in an ongoing struggle with Colorado for the crown. But there's one key area where our once visionary state is beginning to fall short – transportation. While Colorado and even Minnesota have explicitly directed their transportation agencies to reduce vehicle miles traveled, Oregon is pursuing a comprehensively disproven strategy of widening freeways instead.

In a city where so many people are proud to cycle everywhere they go, we should be investing in protected bike lanes, more neighborhood greenways, and safe routes to school instead of a freeway expansion.

In a city with wonderful but sorely underutilized transit, we should be investing in more frequent service, dedicated bus streets for more efficient routes, and better paid drivers. Instead we're planning to spend nearly two billion dollars on less than two miles of freeway.

And at a time when climate refugees are being driven from their homes, when Oregon homeowners are struggling with increased or simply unavailable insurance due to climate-fueled wildfires, when all the science says we need to drive less if we want to ensure our children can enjoy all the beauties of this state – and world – we love, we are planning to make matters worse with more freeways.

We've understood induced demand since the 60s. We've given acres of the city's waterfront to freeways. We've given so much to cars already. It's time to start focusing our transportation budget on people, not vehicles. Bikes, buses, well-maintained streets. The things our fellow citizens need to thrive in this city we love. Not a wider road to make it easier for folks to drive through it.