

From:

Siobhan O'Reilly

Email:

sio.oreilly@gmail.com

Location:

Portland, 97227

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

As a resident of Portland, I see many ways to improve our transportation throughout the city and state. However, investing in new freeways and adding lanes will only take us backwards at a time when we cannot afford such missteps: adding lanes only induces demand, leading to greater congestion and more pollution. Forty percent of Oregon emissions are from transportation, and the past 12 months (since June 2023) have been the hottest on record already — how many heat-domes and wildfires can we take? Adding freeway lanes will not make our bridges safer when the Big One inevitably hits, either! Instead, we need a forward-thinking plan that serves our communities and prepares for the challenges we are sure to face. The 2025 transportation package should prioritize raising funds for operations and maintenance, safety programs, active transportation networks, local programs led by cities and counties, community streets, decarbonizing our transportation system, and public transit/paratransit. I want fair and equitable ways to raise money to improve and maintain Oregon's transportation system that deliver real value for our dollars by supporting the streets and services we use every day, rather than filling budget gaps for Metro-area megaprojects. I want state action to reduce transportation's climate impact and the need to drive by supporting public and active transportation, and ensuring people can connect to jobs and economic opportunities without needing to own a car. A better future is not only possible, it is necessary if we are to survive. The decisions you make will have an impact for generations to come. Thank you for your consideration and your action!