

Hello Legislators,

I am writing to express my strong support for increased funding for public transportation and sustainable infrastructure, rather than further investments in freeway expansions and car-centric projects. As a resident of inner-NE Portland, I rely entirely on public transit and cycling to navigate the city, and I am deeply concerned about the long-term impacts of prioritizing freeways over alternative transportation solutions.

My neighborhood is bordered by two major freeways, I-5 and I-84. While these roads serve as key thoroughfares, they also bring significant challenges. The constant flow of high-speed vehicles near my home contributes to elevated levels of air pollution, noise pollution, and a diminished quality of life for local residents. More concerning, these freeways funnel speeding traffic into our streets, creating dangerous conditions for pedestrians and cyclists like myself.

Expanding freeway capacity will only exacerbate these issues by encouraging more car travel, increasing greenhouse gas emissions, and further compromising road safety. Studies consistently show that adding lanes to freeways induces demand, leading to more congestion rather than less. More cars on the road also mean more accidents, more pollution, and more strain on our communities.

On the other hand, public transportation systems such as light rail and buses provide a cleaner, safer, and more equitable solution for city residents. When combined with cycling infrastructure, these systems offer an efficient, environmentally-friendly alternative to car dependency. I frequently combine cycling with transit, and this multimodal approach allows me to move around the city easily without contributing to traffic or pollution.

As you deliberate on upcoming transportation budgets, I urge you to prioritize funding for public transit over freeway/road expansions. Let's create a future where Portland continues to lead in sustainability and urban innovation.

Thanks,
Ashwin