

I believe that legislators should prioritize efficient public transportation, pedestrian and cyclist safety, and road maintenance. I do not believe that expanding the freeway is an appropriate use of taxpayer money, nor is it a climate-friendly solution to traffic. Numerous studies have shown that expanding freeways does not alleviate traffic, but actually encourages more drivers on the road, instead. I think that it's very telling that the locations for in person public comments were located so far from the actual neighborhood that will be impacted by this project. If we are to truly take climate change seriously, we must focus on robust and efficient public transit (rail and bus), rather than waste billions of dollars on fruitless highway expansion. My quality of life living in Portland would be immensely improved if I had better access to easy, reliable, and efficient public transportation instead of being forced to drive everywhere. My commute to work via car is 15 minutes, but by bus it takes an hour or more. These are the issues we should be investing in fixing instead of adding lanes to the freeway. Thank you.

Ashley Kerns