

We must stop adding lanes to our freeways. Every time we do this we waste valuable money, displace homes and businesses, reduce quality of life for people who live near the freeway, and ultimately make traffic problems *worse* and not better.

Freeway expansion does not work. This isn't an opinion – it's well-established at this point and there are countless examples to prove it, from LA to Houston to basically anywhere it gets tried. Over and over again state DOTs light billions of public dollars on fire to add lanes, only to find a few years on that they face crushing maintenance debt, and traffic that's every bit as bad if not worse than before.

And if that wasn't enough reason, here are a few more:

- Cars become more expensive to own and operate every year, and people are choosing to drive less because of it, especially younger people without generational wealth. Pouring vast amounts of public money into building even more car infrastructure than we already have is not a wise or forward-looking choice.

- There are much better things to spend our transit money on. Like fixing the streets, roads, and bridges we already have. Like investing in fast, convenient, reliable, and affordable public transit (STIF etc). Like providing safe routes to school that don't require driving (a thing most students can't do and a huge burden on parents). Like building safe, convenient, well-connected networks for active transit, especially linking up to the aforementioned public transit. Like tree canopies over streets to combat record summer heat waves.

- We need to reduce VMT, and have a stated goal of doing so, and creating conditions that push people to drive even more than they already do is not a way to get there. Increasing vehicle throughput is *not* how you achieve that goal.

We have a responsibility to future generations to make smart choices. Investing in freeways because it's the only thing we know how to do is an abdication of that responsibility. We must do better.

Matt Villers