

Submitter: Dan Kaufman
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Joint Committee On Transportation
Measure: HB2098

My eldest son, Lucas, was nearly killed near Powell Blvd on his way to Cleveland High School in 2017. These high crash corridors (mostly owned by ODOT) represent the lion's share of Pedestrian road fatalities in our state. At the Joint Transportation Committee hearing on Thursday we heard about proposals by Rep Nosse and others to address the problem of dangerous orphan freeways. Of course, there is precious little funding for these kind of truly vital transportation priorities. And yet the JTC has proposed adding amendments to House Bill 2098 \$1-Billion in Oregon General Obligation Bonds over 8-years for a bill that's ostensibly about "speed bumps", as I understand it. Those bonds must be paid first and ahead of any other spending Oregonians might want to do.

I can think of a myriad of things I'd rather Oregonians spend money on than a massive subsidy for freeway expansion (which is what HB 2098 is actually about). I absolutely do not trust the current Oregon Department of Transportation to implement equitable tolling or tolling/fuel/mileage taxes that would help us rebuild a fairer, cleaner, and safer transportation system nor do I think we should be funding transportation projects with general funds when there is an already dedicated and protected pot of money for highways: the gas tax.

I would like to thank my HD41 Rep. Mark Gamba, HD 42 Rep. Rob Nosse, Governor Tina Kotek for pushing back against the amendments that would commit \$1 billion in bonds. Also, Rep. Khanh Pham for her more sensible amendment 3 (see comments). Also, thank you to Reps Nosse, Pham, and my SD21 Senator Kathleen Taylor for their work on orphan freeway and deadly high crash corridor, Powell Blvd (Hwy 26). This should be a priority for JTC NOT freeway expansions!

We need equitable transportation investments that counter all the mayhem that automobiles cause. In the 21st century we should not be borrowing money plus our children's environment and health to expand freeways.

A few last things, the seismic excuse for the CRC aka IBR project is a distraction for the real reasons behind this massive expenditure. Will we also be replacing the St. Johns Bridge, The Marquem, etc, etc, etc because they are old?? If this were about earthquakes and transportation we would be addressing that issue holistically. Please stop using that as an excuse. If this is about congestion we know freeway expansions are no solution in the long run. If this is about a jobs program, we can do so much better. Please do it better!

Kindly,

Dan Kaufman
Portland