

HB 3065 and especially amendments package -8 is the wrong direction to move. Dedicating money to expanding freeways would work to increase carbon emissions and make it harder to slow climate change and prevent catastrophic changes to our planet. Designing a toll program to pay for the expansion of a road is the exact opposite of what we should be doing: instead of creating a way to collect tolls on a newly expanded freeway to pay for the construction, we should be using congestion pricing to reduce the number of cars on the road. Instead of spending billions to expand roads, we should focus on safety: the most dangerous roads in Portland for pedestrians are owned by ODOT, and ODOT has prioritized freeway expansions over sidewalks. If ODOT can go a year without killing someone on a substandard urban road, then maybe we can discuss freeway expansions

"Transportation" should mean more than spending billions to build shiny new bridges that will further impoverish residents who can only afford to live in neighborhoods with bad roads and no sidewalks and spotty bus service. Transportation should mean that everyone has access to all the amenities in our region, and we should spend the dollars that we have to protect and improve people's lives.