

I am absolutely alarmed that this bill is still getting traction.

The Albina neighborhood was already wrecked once for a freeway. Pollution around Harriet Tubman Middle School was recently so bad that it was recommended recess be cut short. That's a nice way of saying it was unsafe for children to be outside. And ODOT and Speaker Kotek still think it's a good idea to continue to consider this proposal?

We just had the worst fire season on record. It was unsafe for us to leave our houses and breathe the air outside for nearly two whole weeks - and that was just in Portland. There's no evidence that this freeway expansion would do anything to help fight climate change. And ODOT and Speaker Kotek still think it's a good idea to consider this proposal?

I live near NE Halsey & 82nd Ave. Pedestrian deaths are off the charts. Everyday I see people running stoplights in cars without license plates. That's a health and safety issue, to put it mildly. Where's the money for that? I wish ODOT and Speaker Kotek cared as much about the livelihood about those of us that fear crossing the street in Montavilla as they do about widening a freeway to further accelerate climate change.

Earlier in this proposal's life, it was demonstrated that widening this freeway would not in fact be a viable long-term solution to traffic congestion on this stretch of highway. Widening the freeway is an invitation to more cars, to more pollution, that will land us back in the very same position in another 5 years. I ask again, why is this even still being considered?

Expand the Max to Vancouver. Set up some better bus routes and schedules. Show some consideration for folks who live east of Laurelhurst Park. Hell, show some consideration for the kids at Harriet Tubman who will inherit this mess and the poor health outcomes that come with it. This is a bad idea and that anyone who claims to be in support of fighting climate change would continue to consider it as a viable option is simply unconscionable.