

Climate leaders don't widen freeways, do not pass HB 3065.

Widening the freeways in Portland is not the economic stimulus that you think it is. Expanding the suburbs from Forest Grove to Sandy, Salem to Battleground, WA may indeed provide the housing we need and build businesses, but at what cost? Oregon will have to maintain every neighborhood street, collector, millions of traffic signals & signs. We will pave over all our fertile farmland. We will burn fossil fuels to drive our cars (no, electric cars are not the magic solution). We will worsen public health by forcing people to sit in cars. We will continue to isolate ourselves from our neighbors. We will promote corporate, drive through business rather than locally owned ones. We will force minority groups to move to the fringes, or live next to the pollution spewing highways. We will spend BILLIONS of taxpayer dollars on a single freeway project that is not necessary meanwhile neglecting orphaned urban highways that are killing our citizens.

The good news is, we don't have to do this! Take the money from the freeway projects and spend it fixing 82nd Ave in Portland so it stops killing members of the black community. Build a congestion pricing system in all the metro areas to discourage unnecessary trips during peak hours. If you think this is ground breaking, look at London. Research from the US Dept. of Transportation FHWA details many cases proving the effectiveness of the policy (<https://ops.fhwa.dot.gov/publications/fhwahop08047/02summ.htm>) and HOW THE VOTERS LOVED IT AFTERWARDS.

Why spend billions of dollars on a project that could be solved with a few million in tolling equipment? Why choose the most expensive, most environmentally damaging, most backward, most dangerous, most politically harmful option when there is a tried and proven solution staring at you in the face? Take the step toward the future and stop expanding the freeways.