

I am writing to express my opposition to both the -8 amendment to HB 3065 and to HB 3065 itself. In a time of climate emergency, in a state where 40% of our carbon emissions are from transportation, this bill is a 20th Century approach to our 21st Century issues. ODOT is broke, and instead of reevaluating their approach to meet the state's transport needs in a way that helps us build a sustainable future in a habitable climate they propose using tolls to let them continue to widen freeways with no oversight of cost overruns.

All of the research that has been done in the last few decades points in one direction: widening freeways doesn't help traffic congestion. Not only will HB 3065 pour fire on any local or state emissions targets as it encourages more freeway driving, it won't even solve the congestion that ODOT proposes it as a solution to. And why is ODOT trying to solve automotive congestion instead of helping guide Oregon to more sustainable transportation modes and safer travel on the roads it maintains? I live on Lombard St in North Portland, and ODOT's tonedeaf response to a traffic fatality that occurred near where I live recently - trumpeting needed bike lane additions on Lombard that wouldn't come within a half mile of the fatality - was more evidence that all the department wants to do in this moment is to spent money they don't have on widening roads while abdicating any duty they have to safety and our shared climate.

Please do not cut ODOT a blank check to widen freeways. Climate leaders don't widen freeways, they encourage buses, light rail, bikes, electrification, infrastructure investment and electrification, and everything but the suburban freeway expansions that seem to be the only thing ODOT wants to try to accomplish in Portland. Please do not pass HB 3065. It will not help Oregonians, it will be an expensive boondoggle even if ODOT succeeds in widening 205 needlessly, and it ties billions of dollars that could be used to help move into a more sustainable and safer future for all Oregonians into harmful freeways.