

This bill 3065 gives ODOT a slush fund to expand freeways, to be used primarily in the Portland Metro area. This bill WILL NOT reduce congestion. It enables ODOT to increase tolling to give itself more money to expand freeways. It is doing this in a time of serious wildfires in Oregon caused by climate change. ODOT's financing of planned freeway expansion means more greenhouse gas emissions, more carbon dioxide, more fossil fuel-powered transportation, which today in Oregon causes 40% of global warming.

We need more money from OTC and ODOT for transit, bikes, high speed rail, pedestrians, and safety. Alternatives that get people out of their cars until our fleet is electrified. We need better maintenance on our roads and highways, NOT freeway expansion. We need less air pollution from the diesel that kills 460 people a year in Portland Metro according to the U.S. EPA. We need fewer carcinogens in our air. We need infrastructure that can charge electric vehicles. We need to reduce driving of fossil fuel vehicles until we can electrify the fleet.

HB 3065 goes in the exact wrong direction for Oregon. Climate change is an existential problem for our planet and our children and grandchildren. We don't need to induce more driving with freeway expansions. 2017 legislation took us in the wrong direction. We can't bury our heads in the sand and continue in that wrong direction just so ODOT and its 4,700 employees can have a continued workflow. Construction jobs are nice, but only if they are for the right projects.