

This bill locks us in to expanding freeways as a way to reduce congestion, and does so for decades to come. It flies in the face of fifty years of research showing that this does not work. As written, it would do nothing to address the climate crisis that Oregon is pledged to address, and it would provide a completely inadequate funding stream for the things that would actually help. It is true that truck traffic on our region's freeways is economically critical. But expanding the freeways has never sped up traffic and won't do so here (see: the I-405 project in LA two years ago). The only way to make truck traffic flow smoothly is to provide alternatives for other users, and this bill doesn't do that. It only uses tolling to increase revenue, and does nothing to reduce demand. It also ignores the critical safety needs on the surface streets under ODOT's purview. As it is, it should be buried.