

Last week, I met a mom who lost her toddler to traffic violence on an ODOT-owned roadway in Portland. As the mom of two small children myself, I can only imagine how devastating that must have been. Her story makes me extra angry that ODOT continues to prioritize spending on freeway expansion projects rather than on necessary safety improvements on our roadways. The \$3 million currently planned for pedestrian improvements along E 82nd Avenue in Portland is a drop in the bucket compared to the \$185 million needed to bring the road up to a good state of repair, yet ODOT claims they don't have the funding to fix it. Somehow, though, they have \$800 million to spend on the I5 Rose Quarter freeway expansion project?

The legislature has been dealing with the aftermath of the horrible wildfires we had here in Oregon last year, so I know that you're aware of the negative effect that climate change is already having on our state. In light of that, implementing tolling to fund freeways is a terrible idea. Instead, Oregon needs to implement congestion pricing, with money raised used to fund transit and other transportation improvements that would allow people to forgo single occupancy vehicles as their mode of transportation for most trips. Congestion pricing would be 1) cheaper than expanding freeways, 2) better for climate change, and 3) more likely to actually solve traffic congestion, since expanding a freeway has never fixed congestion in the past.

Please oppose the -8 amendments, and instead support transportation policies that improve safety and usability for pedestrians, bicyclists, and transit riders. Our planet and our lungs will thank you.