

Submitter: Joni Zimmerman

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Joint Committee On Transportation

Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB564

I am strongly opposed to spending any more state resources on building new roads or widening existing ones. Time and time again we have been shown that widening a road just increases traffic. We have to stop building infrastructure for cars and start focusing on building up our public transportation system as quickly as possible - long distance trains, commuter trains, trolleys, trams, buses, mini buses - whatever is needed to connect neighborhoods, rural areas, villages, towns and cities. It is not sustainable for every household to own at least one car. First of all, about 1/3 of the people don't even drive. Second, cars are ridiculously expensive to buy, own, and maintain. Why on earth have car manufacturers been allowed to use huge amounts of resources to manufacture something so big and expensive that either breaks down or becomes obsolete after about 5 years??? Something that big and resource expensive should last a lifetime. Besides the roads, cars take up huge amounts of resources just for daily storage (parking). Many people would be able to save enough for a down payment on a home if they didn't have to own and maintain a car and buy insurance just so they could get to work, just because there is no efficient public transportation available. We can do better than this and vastly improve our quality of life. If we put our resources into comprehensive public transportation and make it more convenient to use public transportation instead of driving, people will decide they don't need cars and we will have less pollution and much more space available for housing and parks and nice public spaces, and we will have communities again instead of a bunch of isolated angry people driving around in cars flipping each other off. Thank you!!