



Comments to Oregon Department of Transportation

I-5 Rose Quarter Freeway Expansion

April 1, 2019

BBPDX advocates for a transportation system that is a liberating force for everyone in the community. In collaboration with community organizations and government agencies, we are working to support a spectrum of sustainable transportation options that will aid in creating the thriving, equitable community we collectively strive for.

We believe we need a transportation system that mobilizes its citizens, makes streets safer for all, and gets our community closer to its climate change mitigation goals. We want our leaders to make brave transportation decisions that benefit the entirety of the Portland region, serving business and commerce in addition to everyone who lives here. Given the legacy of institutional racism in Portland and how it has manifested in the location of this project, it is imperative that our leaders act with respect, courage and integrity.

Today, our leaders have the opportunity to stand for sane, compassionate policy and prove that Portland will lead the nation in our commitment to a sustainable and equitable future. We support the detailed comments and issues raised by our colleagues at Albina Vision Trust, The Street Trust, and Oregon Environmental Council regarding the I-5 Rose Quarter Freeway Expansion.

We must act with conviction: Portland, and the next generation of Portlanders who will have to live with the consequences of today's actions, deserve better. We are calling on leaders to tap the brakes on this project and ensure \$500 million in taxpayer funds are thoughtfully invested in projects that deliver community benefit while paying more than lip service to equity. Proceeding without further analysis regarding the project's community and environmental impacts ignores irrefutable facts that question many faulty assumptions made by the Environmental Assessment. A more prudent approach would be to conduct a full Environmental Impact Statement while also giving congestion pricing an opportunity to ameliorate congestion problems and provide data that can better inform our policy and infrastructure decisions.