



Commissioner Chloe Eudaly & Portland City Council  
1221 SW 4th Ave  
Portland, OR 97204

Megan Channell, Project Manager, Oregon Department of Transportation  
123 NW Flanders St  
Portland, OR 97209

Re: ODOT I--5 Rose Quarter Environmental Assessment

Disability Rights Oregon is a non-profit organization that advocates for the rights of Oregonians with disabilities. We are also Oregon's federally designated Protection and Advocacy system and, as such, we have a unique role in upholding the rights of people who have disabilities. We advocate for public policies that will protect and increase the independence, safety, and integration of the disability community.

Disability Rights Oregon is concerned about the proposed alterations to the Rose Quarter area of Portland surrounding I-5 in regards to compliance with the American with Disabilities Act (ADA). But also DRO is concerned generally, that the proposal primarily benefits car and truck traffic through the Eastside area. People with disabilities are disproportionately likely to rely on mass transit rather than own or drive private cars. People with disabilities would be better served by a proposal with a heavier emphasis on mass transit and pedestrian improvements in an essential area of Oregon's largest city.

Although the project purports to offer substantial pedestrian and bicycle accessibility, at least one of the proposed pedestrian crossings of the freeway - the Hancock-Dixon crossing - would reportedly have a 10% grade in places. As a pragmatic concern, this crossing would be functionally inaccessible to people with physical disabilities. No one using a wheelchair, walker, or other mobility device could cross the highway at this point, or could not do so safely. A grade that steep would not be safe for people with disabilities to use. Because such steep grades are inaccessible, the proposed crossing design would be in violation of the engineering standards of the ADA and regulations enacted under it.

We would ask you to reconsider this proposal and put forth a new proposal with improved pedestrian and mass transit access. All pedestrian routes must be fully accessible.

Thank you,

Ted Wenk, Managing Attorney

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**Disability Rights Oregon is the Protection and Advocacy System for Oregon**