



Date: November 28, 2018

To: Megan Channell, Project Manager, Oregon Department of Transportation

CC: Oregon Transportation Commission
Federal Highway Administration
Portland City Council
Metro Council
Chris Warner, Interim Director, Portland Bureau of Transportation
Joe Zehnder, Interim Director, Portland Bureau of Planning and Sustainability

From: No More Freeway Expansions Coalition

Subject: Request for 60-Day Extension of Public Comment Period on Rose Quarter Freeway Expansion Project, Accommodations for Public Hearing Event

The No More Freeway Expansions Coalition is writing to the Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) to formally request an extension to the federally-mandated public comment period of the Environmental Assessment for the I-5 Rose Quarter Freeway Expansion project. Our grassroots group of neighbors, public health supporters, environmentalists, and transportation advocates has been closely following plans for the I-5 Freeway Expansion since discussions for the project began in 2012, and we believe that the proposed thirty day public comment period is inadequate for us to meaningfully review the disclosed materials, assess the findings about air quality and congestion, and provide thoughtful feedback about this project's impacts to the neighborhood, city and region.

As community advocates, local business owners and elected officials concerned about the impacts this project may have on the North Portland community and the region as a whole, we are concerned that the 30-day public comment period will not give community advocates enough time to meaningfully review and provide feedback on ODOT's findings. By initiating a thirty-day public comment period in late January, the ability of community members and stakeholders to weigh in on the proposal is severely dampened. This timing potentially overlaps directly with federally recognized holidays including President's Day and Martin Luther King Jr. Day. Depending on timing, this abbreviated public comment period could also give community partners as few as 18



business days to review the Environmental Assessment materials and provide meaningful feedback.

Moreover, our coalition requests that ODOT hold an official event in the immediate vicinity of the proposed project area to explicitly solicit oral testimony and public comment. Many individuals, small-business owners, and community-based organizations would appreciate the opportunity to provide oral and written testimony in person, in a manner that can be included into the public record. We ask that the event be held during the extended public comment period between January-April of 2019 , and that A/S/L interpretation, translation services and childcare be made available to ensure maximum accessibility and accountability to concerned community members.

With a price-tag of nearly half a billion dollars, significant concerns about existing levels of ambient air pollution in the immediate vicinity of a recently reopened middle school, and independent concerns about project efficacy, it is essential that every organization is given ample opportunity to review ODOT's proposal. We are requesting a 60-day extension, and an opportunity for community members to deliver oral testimony in a public hearing. Anything less would represent a failure of civic commitment to democratic principles to allow the community to appropriately understand ODOT's project in their neighborhood.

This letter was written by the No More Freeway Expansions coalition, and the following organizations and individuals have joined our letter in support of an extended opportunity for Public Comment on the Environmental Assessment.

Rita Moore, Board Member, Portland Public Schools
Scott Bailey, Board Member, Portland Public Schools
Bob Sallinger, Portland Audubon Society
Mary Peveto, Executive Director, Neighbors for Clean Air
Huy Ong, Executive Director, OPAL - Environmental Justice Oregon
Jillian Detweiler, Executive Director, The Street Trust
Kasandra Griffin, Executive Director, Community Cycling Center
Inna Levin, Interim Executive Director, Oregon Walks
Kari Schlosshauer, Pacific Northwest Senior Policy Manager, Safe Routes to School National Partnership
Mike Houck, Executive Director, Urban Greenspaces Institute
Anais Tuepker, Interim Co-Executive Director, 350PDX



Rhett Lawrence, Conservation Director, Oregon Chapter, Sierra Club
Jenny Glass, Executive Director, The Rosewood Initiative
Allan Rudwick, on behalf of Eliot Neighborhood Association
Steven Cole, on behalf of Irvington Community Association
Greg Bourget, Portland Clean Air
Catie Gould and Ted Buehler, Co-Chairs, BikeLoudPDX
Tony Jordan, President, Portlanders for Parking Reform
Aaron Brown, No More Freeway Expansions
Chris Smith, No More Freeway Expansions
Dan McFarlane, Director, Association of Oregon Rail and Transit Advocates (AORTA)
Kiel Johnson, Owner, Go By Bike
Scott Kocher, Attorney at Law, Forum Law Group LLC
Brandon Sharp, General Manager, Ex Novo Brewing Co
Elly Blue and Joe Biel, Co-Owners, Microcosm Publishing
Suzy Elbow, Owner, St Johns Community Thrift
Steve Bozzone, Owner, Bozz Media
Andrew Neerman, Owner, Beacon Sound
Tony Pereira and Ira Ryan, Co-Owners, Breadwinner Cycles