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Portland Planning and Sustainability Commission

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April 1, 2019

Oregon Department of Transportation
Attn: Megan Channell, Major Projects Manager
123 NW Flanders St.
Portland, OR 97209

Dear Ms. Channell,

The Portland Planning and Sustainability Commission (PSC) welcomes the opportunity to comment on the Environmental Assessment of the I-5 Rose Quarter project.

After hearing your presentation at the March 26, 2019 PSC meeting and reviewing the comments of the City's Bicycle, Pedestrian and Streetcar Advisory Committees, as well as those of the Portland Parks Board, we have the following significant concerns:

- The surface street improvements are inconsistent with our Transportation System Plan (TSP) that prioritizes pedestrians, bicyclists and transit users. Instead the project appears to impede these modes while it supports the flow of vehicular traffic. The final design should give priority to walking, biking and transit in accordance with Policy 9.6 of the 2035 Comprehensive Plan.
- The key land use objective of incorporating this project into the N/NE Quadrant Plan, relinking Albina in general and the Blanchard site in particular with the other parts the Rose Quarter, does not appear to be accomplished, with a single, auto-oriented (10 percent grade) street added as an East/West connection.
- We are skeptical of the project claims that proposed freeway travel improvements will not induce new demand, which would effectively erase or reverse claimed reductions in air toxins and greenhouse gas emissions.



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We join the City's Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committees in calling for a full EIS and would specifically request consideration of a congestion pricing alternative.

Sincerely,



Katherine Schultz
Chair

cc: Portland City Council
Metro Council



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