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**RE: Rose Quarter Environmental Impact Statement**

Date: January 3th 2023

To: Oregon Department of Transportation Rose Quarter Project Team,

BikeLoud PDX strongly asks that ODOT conduct an Environmental Impact Statement for the proposed Rose Quarter project. We are concerned that a larger freeway will make riding a bicycle worse in Portland and result in a decrease in the number of people riding bicycles in Portland. Portland's transportation and climate plans call for a 25% bicycle mode share by 2035. A wider freeway with ill conceived on and off ramps would make it very difficult to reach this goal. If more people are unable to ride a bicycle for transportation it would result in more congestion and demand for car space around the region.

Our current freeway system is one of the main obstacles for a comfortable and connected bicycle network. We are especially concerned about the latest proposed designs which would off ramp cars onto the Williams corridor. This is the most important street for connecting our bicycle network to NE and N Portland. Those designs would make riding a bike from NE and N Portland more dangerous. We ask ODOT to engage with the bicycling community to find solutions that will make it easier to ride a bicycle for transportation in Portland. Conducting an Environmental Impact Statement is an important part of that engagement.

Kiel Johnson  
Chair BikeLoud PDX