

KARIN POWER
STATE REPRESENTATIVE
DISTRICT 41
MULTNOMAH AND CLACKAMAS COUNTIES



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

June 25, 2021

To: Chief Clerk Sekerak
Subject: Vote Explanation for HB 3055

Dear Chief Clerk Sekerak,

I support the ability of ODOT to be flexible in implementing major construction projects in the Portland Metro area, building upon the funding allocated in HB 2017 (2017). While I remain concerned that House Bill 3305 does not contain language explicitly directing ODOT to incorporate congestion price modeling into any congestion relief project to “right size” the freeway construction, I voted yes on this bill in part to provide the bonding vehicle that will eventually be necessary for the construction of freeway lids to reconnect the Albina neighborhood.

Interstate 5, as it runs through the city of Portland, is just one of many national examples of transportation planning decisions that have physically uprooted communities and led to institutional generational wealth theft. We are at a confluence locally and nationally to address this legacy head on, and soon, will have an opportunity to physically reconnect the Albina neighborhood that was bulldozed 70 years ago. For example, one of ODOT’s contractors on the Rose Quarter project has submitted a viable proposal that can incorporate both physical freeway changes and the Albina lid construction, with minimal change to the baseline cost projections¹. The ability to bond against tolling revenue will provide the needed capital for reinvestment in the physical infrastructure of this neighborhood, driven by the current and former residents of the Albina neighborhood. It is in large part due to this opportunity that I have supported HB 3055.

Thank you,

State Representative Karin Power

¹ Monahan, Rachel. (2021, June 16). A Contractor’s Report Fuels Demands That State Officials Shrink and Cover a Highway Through Northeast Portland. *Willamette Week*. <https://www.wweek.com>

