

My name is Katie Farrell. Thank you for the opportunity to speak tonight. I am here to express my concern about the proposed expansion of the Aurora Airport. This airport expansion would have a substantial impact on most people already living and working in Wilsonville and the surrounding communities.

I am a Wilsonville resident who commutes to my dental practice in Hubbard. In the 11 years I have been making this daily trip, I have seen traffic increase and my commute times slow. As other commuters have noticed, southbound I-5 leading to the Boones Bridge and Highway 551 has become overwhelmed with traffic, especially during commute times. This is not only a problem in Wilsonville but in the entire Portland Metro area. I know the city of Wilsonville is aware of these traffic problems and addressing it on several levels: widening Wilsonville Road around the I-5 interchange, and most recently, adding the third stacking lane on the southbound onramp. Unfortunately, the situation in Wilsonville cannot improve much as long as congestion on I-5 around the bridge continues to worsen.

Expansion of the Aurora Airport will aggravate these regional traffic problems by increasing the number of vehicles on already congested roads. Without a doubt it will have an effect on and the lives of many residents and employees in this and surrounding communities.

Where are the impact studies on how Airport expansion would impact the surrounding communities and the through-traffic on I-5 that all has to go over the Boone Bridge?

Moreover, who is going to benefit from the airport expansion? I expect that the average resident will find little benefit from this proposed expansion of public infrastructure, that will only benefit a very select group of wealthy individuals with jets and many don't even live in our community. How can we support public investment in the airport expansion before fixing our regional transportation infrastructure?

I thank the City of Wilsonville for holding this public hearing so that our voices of concern for the community that we live in and love can be heard. As long as the Airport expansion proponents continue to push a proposal that is not in the best interest of citizens, we should continue to object to the unwise expansion of the Aurora Airport.

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