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To: LUCAS Sarah <Sarah.LUCAS@odav.oregon.gov>  
Subject: Testimony: Aurora airport expansion

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In the past 25 years that we have lived in Wilsonville we have seen enormous change in the community. The I-5 Corridor has become more and more the major commercial arterial between Canada and Mexico. Wilsonville Road under the I-5 underpass was a 2 Lane road. Travel north and south on I-5 was very accessible and efficient. Today, Wilsonville Road is heavily traveled and five lanes. Today between 3:30 PM and 6:30 PM we avoid going across town because traffic is backed up on the west side most of the time all the way to Brown Road because of the bottleneck on the southbound I-5 Willamette River bridge. Now traveling south on I-5, traffic begins to jam up during that time in Tigard and homeward bound we need to exit the North Wilsonville exit because all lanes are standing still with traffic snarled because of the bottleneck at the I-5 bridge. I-5 northbound south of the Willamette River Bridge, too becomes often congested with traffic slowing to between 25 and 35 mph until northbound across the bridge. The area north of the I-5 bridge has had tremendous population and commercial expansion. The truck traffic is ever increasing, vehicle traffic is ever increasing, yet across the Willamette River no major projects have been accomplished since its construction virtually 70 years ago in 1954. The River Crossing is totally archaic. The proposed expansion of the aurora airport undoubtedly will compound this bottleneck. Proponents of the expansion minimize the impact. We need to be visionary, we need to think of the area and the surrounds in 20 to 40 years from now. Will this recently small provincial airport basically serving piston small plane enthusiasts incrementally become a major regional air freight hub? Sounds outrageously alarmist? Really? There will be continued population and commercial expansion in Canby, Aurora and Woodburn area. To accommodate that expansion in the next 20 to 40 years another I-5 freeway bridge is an absolute must to maintain the livability and economic vitality of the area. Before the expansion of the airport let's talk about paying for, and constructing an additional I-5 bridge.

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