

HIDALGO Dee <[REDACTED]>

Apr 7, 2025,  
5:28 PM

to Joe, HOUSE, GLENN, HAMILTON, Rep, Sen, me, thinkoutloud@opb.org, Rep

Joe,

Thank you for contacting us. Per our financial accounting system, here is the budgeted amount and financial expenditures of the Iowa Street project. I've attached my previous response sent to you in 2023.

Programmed amount for the Iowa Street Viaduct Project was \$49,782,799.  
Final cost when the project was completed was \$47,621,953.

We estimated three years for the project to be completed. It took just over four years to complete.

Thank you.

**Dee Hidalgo** (ella/she/her)  
ODOT Region 1 Community Affairs  
503-731-8230 (direct) | 971-352-5719 (cell)

Visit the ODOT Region 1 website: [www.oregon.gov/odot/regions/pages/region-1-portland-metro.aspx](http://www.oregon.gov/odot/regions/pages/region-1-portland-metro.aspx)

**From:** Joe Rowe <[ojoe22@gmail.com](mailto:ojoe22@gmail.com)>

**Sent:** Friday, April 4, 2025 5:07 AM

**To:** HOUSE David J [REDACTED] Kevin

[REDACTED] HAMILTON Don <[REDACTED]>; HIDALGO

Dee <[REDACTED]>

**Cc:** Rep Nelson [REDACTED]; Sen Frederick [REDACTED]

Joseph Cortright <[jcortright@opb.org](mailto:jcortright@opb.org)> Rep Fahey

**Subject:** Fwd: ODOT project at Iowa Street in Portland

This message was sent from outside the organization. Treat attachments, links and requests with caution. Be conscious of the information you share if you respond.

Dear Dee, and Kevin and David, and Don. I have a press question, It has taken years to get an answer.

cc: David Miller from OPB, and his guest Joe, and my two state lawmakers. And Speaker Fahey and staff.

**ODOT will never answer me.** What was the initial cost estimate of the Iowa Viaduct mega project?

I find it very hard to get ODOT data on the initial estimated cost and the final cost at project completion.

What was the initial estimate of months to complete the project?

The final cost was listed by ODOT at 50.6 million. It felt like the project took 3 times the time to complete. There were excessive traffic delays and congestion caused by the time over runs. This is Interstate 5, underneath the OHSU hillside.

I've CC"ed my Senator Lew Frederick who supports giving ODOT endless money. The most recent example of this endless money is HB 5005 which was one billion slipped into the last 5 days of the 2023 session. My rep Nelson voted against that. Senator Frederick has used the same propaganda of ODOT in his town halls. Senator Frederick tells me that our gas tax revenue has gone down, when in fact it's still going up, and is estimated to go down some unknown time in the future.

I'm alarmed at the facts about the cost difference between the estimates before starting these projects and the actual costs of the finished wider freeways.

<https://www.opb.org/article/2025/04/03/oregon-economist-examines-the-future-of-odot/>

I am very worried about ODOT transparency.

Joe

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Joe Rowe** [REDACTED]  
Date: Wed, Sep 27, 2023 at 7:55 PM  
Subject: ODOT project at Iowa Street in Portland  
To: HANSON Susan C <[REDACTED]>, Ask ODOT  
<[Ask.ODOT@odot.oregon.gov](mailto:Ask.ODOT@odot.oregon.gov)>  
Cc: Joseph Cortright <[jcortright@hanson.com](mailto:jcortright@hanson.com)>

dear ask ODOT and Susan Hanson  
questions:

**1) What did ODOT say the initial cost of the Iowa project would be?**

2) Where are the documents for the initial cost suggestion and

3) the final cost layout after the project was completed.

I can not find these on the links you provided.

I should not need to file a public records request when the legislature has mandated that these documents be made public at all times.

ODOT has never filed any report as part of the Oregon Transparency laws passed in Salem

<https://www.oregonlegislature.gov/lfo/Pages/KPM.aspx>

<https://www.oregon.gov/transparency/pages/laws-legislation.aspx>

<https://cityobservatory.org/odots-reign-of-error-chronic-highway-cost-overruns/>

See email below.

On Thu, Apr 13, 2017 at 12:07 PM HANSON Susan C

<[REDACTED].or.us> wrote:

Hi Joe,

I have the cost figures that you requested. Please confirm that you received this email so that I know I have the correct email address.

The I-5 Iowa Viaduct project was funded through a combination of federal and state funds with the largest portion coming from Federal funds. It is usually a 90/10 percent split. The federal funding was from the Federal Discretionary Bridge Program and the Projects of Regional and National Significance Earmarks. These funds were in addition to the funding that was provided to Oregon through the Federal Bridge Program.

The federal total was \$44,801,647.

The State portion of the project funding was \$5,812,748. The funds were included in the Statewide Transportation Improvement Program funding for several years (STIP) and was first authorized in 2007.

An additional amount was requested from federal bridge dollars. The request was made through the Oregon Transportation Commission as is the standard process but only a portion of the funds were spent.

All of these funds are dedicated for transportation projects and cannot be used for anything else.

Thank you,

Susan Hanson

**Susan C. Hanson** Community Affairs Coordinator  
Oregon Department of Transportation - Region 1  
123 NW Flanders | Portland, OR | 97209  
**503-731-3490** (desk) | 503-706-9814 (cell)

[REDACTED].or.us

Visit the ODOT Region 1 Web site: <http://www.oregon.gov/ODOT/HWY/REGION1/>