

Hi there,

I'd like to tell you this in person but getting to PCC on the north end of town at 5pm on a work day is a tough ask for folks that have jobs.

I ride Trimet frequently, I absolutely love it. It's one of my favorite parts of living in Portland. I also have a deep appreciation for LTD and all of the other local transit systems in Oregon so this issue matters a lot to me. I have a few requests:

- Transit in this state needs more funding. I'd be happy to see my Oregon Statewide Transit Income Tax increase if it went to transit operations and capital. I really don't know what other revenue levers the state can pull but that's why we pay you to figure that out. Give more money to transit!
- Our transit authorities desperately need assistance to address safety issues. The last four years have emboldened the absolute worst elements of our society to claim public transit assets as their own. I have personally witnessed folks smoking fentanyl and overt menacing on MAX trains, domestic abuse and assault on MAX platforms and people in mental health crises on virtually every bus I board. Many people in my life, all of whom are pretty damned liberal, avoid taking Trimet because of these issues. This is particularly acute among the women in my life, almost none of whom ride Trimet alone. Absolutely none of this is Trimet's fault. State and local decision makers got WAY over their skis on criminal justice and drug policy reform which allowed for effective lawlessness in places like MAX trains. As far as I am concerned, the state is obligated to clean up the mess it made by providing our transit authorities with the resources (and here I mean General Fund dollars, not funds earmarked for transit O&M or capital since this situation is a result of failures perpetrated by state policymakers and not transit authorities) and support (and here I mean law enforcement and prosecutorial support, again, from the General Fund because, again, this is your fault) needed to make this resource available for all.
  - I know this is WAY out of scope but these issues are intertwined. We NEED significant investments in mental health, drug addiction, and criminal justice infrastructure in this region. We need state attention because it's clearly too much for local government to tackle on its own. I bring this up because without addressing these issues we can't really address safety on transit. Thanks for permitting me to get off on a tangent.
- Furthermore, please fund capital investments needed to build our transit systems. In Portland, I'd like to see MAX extensions to Vancouver and Tualatin (SW Corridor) as well as undergrounding the system through downtown. I'd say that these investments should be paid by lottery dollars or the debt obligations the legislature hands out towards the end of the session.
- Finally, and maybe this is outside of scope too but I'll say it anyway, I need to see some progress on high speed rail. The Cascades line is a perfect fit for this and a win for our culture as a region.
- State government in Oregon has for way too long been way too meek and has neglected the common Oregonian who works and pays taxes and loves this state. We deserve something cool and bold and I think good local and regional transit would qualify.

Thanks for reading,

Tim Wood