

Hello,

As I'm unable to attend the portland listening session for the joint transportation committee I'd like to submit my testimony online.

As a non car owner and a frequent transit rider and cyclist, I've been frustrated lately by the feeling that transit projects in the portland metro area have stalled out while the state has continued to seek funding for auto-oriented megaprojects like the interstate bridge replacement and the rose quarter freeway expansion. I feel strongly that these types of projects aren't a good use of state funding and should be scaled back.

Two transit projects in the portland area I would love to see revived are the downtown portland MAX tunnel and the southwest corridor MAX expansions. The tunnel would have huge benefits for the reliability and speed of the MAX and the southwest corridor would make new areas reachable by public transit; I have friends in the Tigard area I'd love to be able to visit by public transit if that option was available. I think state funding would be particularly useful in this area since trimet has been slow to find new funding streams for major transit projects after the original funding measure lost in 2020.

Finally, I think Oregon could do much more to improve our passenger rail network. Proposals to turn unused freight lines into commuter rail in the portland area and to expand the WES line to Salem seem like a good start, but I'd also love for the state to have a longer term vision that could include trains through the willamette valley, to the coast, or through eastern Oregon and potentially to Boise. Particularly as an OSU alumni, I think it's tragic there's no direct train from portland to Corvallis. There are a lot of clear examples in recent history, including from the amtrak cascades, of how adding passenger rail service can induce tons of new ridership, which makes this a great way to help meet our climate goals.

Thank you and I am looking forward to following the results of this listening tour,

Fischer Jemison
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