

Hello,

The Portland of the past showed America that projects like the MAX and biking greenways were the future. The Portland of today is resting on these laurels for too long now. We need to push Portland forward and reinvest in our public transit and active transit systems and infrastructure.

Our cities should admire the pedestrian and the cyclist, the bus rider and the ebiker. These citizens provide economic growth with virtually no economic strain on our cities. Cars do not act as drivers of economic growth: each parking spot takes up space that could be housing, each highway removes a neighborhood, each mile driven toxifies our air and waterways with gas and tire pollutants, and each road siphons our tax money away from our citizens. We need to remove every barrier that prevents people from adopting walking, biking, and public transit as their everyday transportation. This looks like creating bikeways that are safe for everyone - from the 7 year old on a trike to the 70 year old on a scooter. This looks like road diets on our arterials to make them into places - not pass throughs. This looks like increased bus and train frequency with dedicated right of ways (such as the proposed downtown transit tunnel!) This looks like bringing back intercity rail to Oregon (did you know there used to be trains between Portland and Cannon Beach?)

Portland and Oregon are what we make it and we have a chance to make it a place for everyone.

Kurt Schneider