

Hi, this is Adam Zerner, a 31 year old software developer living in the Pearl District.

I had a bad experience going to the Joint Committee on Transportation round table yesterday.

- About 45 minutes before the start time I started getting ready to head out.
- Taking the bus or MAX I would have been like 10-15 minutes late.
- Google Maps said that biking up Williams would take 20 minutes. As an "Interested but Concerned" rider I didn't feel too comfortable with that given the bike infrastructure available. So I considered Ubering but felt like too much of a hypocrite to do that. I've been experimenting with pushing my comfort limits as a biker and figured I'd give biking a shot.
- Before crossing the Broadway bridge I almost got ran over. An SUV was blocking a crossing path that I needed to cross. I made eye contact with the driver. She gave me a wave. I waved back and started heading behind her car to cross. As I was crossing she started backing up. Fortunately I made it through in time.
- I'm afraid of heights and struggled with crossing the Broadway Bridge. I had to walk my bike over it instead of riding.
- I tried using the Avenza Maps app to find a bike route safer than Williams but couldn't really figure it out. I also tried Google Maps and that didn't work either. So I took Williams. But I didn't feel safe on Williams, so I used the sidewalk. Which means I had to go slow and have a lot of start-and-stops.
- I ended up getting to Portland Community College 5-10 minutes late, found a bike rack to lock my bike up, saw bike parts on that bike rack locked up that indicate that someone stole the other bike parts, prayed that wouldn't happen to me, and continued to the auditorium.
- Entering the auditorium, it was completely packed with a bunch of people standing. 1) I saw very few people wearing masks and was concerned about the possibility of getting covid or just getting sick. 2) I have achilles tendinitis and it'd be moderately painful for me to stand for two hours. 3) I'm not very comfortable in crowds. So I decided to leave.
- I didn't have the energy to do any more biking so I took the bus.
- My first bus was the 72. I put my bike on the front rack. I wasn't sure if I should lock it or not. I wanted to but chose not to because I didn't want to delay the bus too much.
- Then I got off to transfer to the 35 at Greeley and Sumner in front of Adidas' building. I saw a beautiful bike path and considered biking the rest of the way to my destination instead but chose not to. I was worried that the nice bike lane would turn into something that I'm not comfortable riding in.
- I added a note to look into the Greeley lane later to see if it is something I would be comfortable riding in the future. This morning I did some research. I found that to reach Greeley I'd have to bike along N Interstate Avenue in an unprotected bike lane with cars close by traveling 50+ mph. There are also some quite dangerous intersections that I'd need to cross. So unfortunately I don't plan on using that lane.