

My name is Chelle Clark. I am a software engineer, and while I am not affiliated with any groups, I am a passionate advocate for non-car transit.

I am not surprised to hear that the maintenance funds for our highways have started to run dry. Cars are well-known for damaging the roads under which they run, yielding steep maintenance costs. If we continue prioritizing cars over everything else, this problem will only worsen, and our aging roads will only fall into further disrepair.

Rather than investing in a transit mode that rapidly degrades our infrastructure, we should be putting our money towards a sustainable answer. Bike infrastructure offers far larger benefits for the cost, while requiring relatively minimal maintenance. Using the fourth power law, a Honda Civic does approximately 40,000 times the damage to the road that a bike does, while a Tesla Model 3 does approximately 140,000 times

Public transit requires more maintenance, but the capacity earned leads to far greater efficiency gains. The FX2 vehicles can carry 115 people per vehicle and the MAX trains can carry 336, while the average car carries 4 and often carries only one. Maintenance is also far cheaper for rail transit, as rail vehicles incur far less damage on the rails compared to motor vehicles on roads.

In closing, every move we make should be in favor of deprecating highway expansion and moving to better transit modes. If we do not, we will be in this same exact boat in five years, with worse roads and worse traffic.

Thank you,
Chelle Clark
she/her