

As a car-free, public transit-dependent resident of NW Portland, I am affected firsthand by the prioritization our state legislature has given to cars since the 1940s. Our state has crumbling infrastructure, a shortage of funds to do proper maintenance on what we've already built, and rising pedestrian deaths due to the prioritization of automobiles - and you have the gall to keep expanding freeways, apply for grants to fund senseless projects like the IBR program, and continue to ignore the detrimental affects of climate change that are accelerated by automobile use.

Our state desperately needs to start funding public transit and immediately stop any further expansion of our roads. We can't even take care of what we have, so why should we keep expanding? We need to move more people and there's a proven solution called public transportation. We have decades of research proving that widening roads and freeways only adds to congestion. Why this legislature would continue to ignore this data is beyond me.

It's time to properly invest in public transit and move away from automobile prioritization and expansion. Portland's public transit is currently too infrequent and slow to be a viable alternative to car ownership. Because of this, we desperately need to give agencies like TriMet and Portland Streetcar funding to increase their current levels of service to make commuting via public transit more desirable. We should be building a MAX tunnel through downtown to make our transit system resilient. We should be aggressively expanding TriMet's FX program to move more people in less time through our city's most used corridors.

It's time to make transportation in Portland, and Oregon, equitable for EVERYONE. Our society is better when everyone has access to multiple modes of transportation, be it cars, bikes, public transit, mobility devices, or walking. Let's make all modes of transit equitable and stop prioritizing cars over everything else. Let's be fiscally responsible and invest in transportation modes, like public transit, that will pay dividends for future generations.