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Consider expanding the light rail infrastructure and bus routes of Portland. I know this is basically impossible from a pragmatic standpoint but a rail system removed from the roads would be even better.

The pollution factor and the cost factor to me, are completely irrelevant. I believe the behavior and culture of people is largely shaped by the environment they live in. The way American cities and neighborhoods have been shaped by car-centered design have, in my opinion, produced and encouraged a culture of hyper-individualistic selfish life-fearing people. We have built our society from the ground up around the flawed belief that you do not need to participate in society if you do not want to, and car-first infrastructure is not only emblematic of that belief, but also nourishes it.

Economic and environmental impact is irrelevant if society as a whole is not willing to interact with itself. Nobody wants to help a city or a culture or a people that they themselves do not believe they are a part of. Create an environment and an infrastructure that forces people to bump shoulders, to look at and hear and smell and feel their neighbors, and you will be laying a foundation for a community that at the very least believes itself to be just that. Without that belief, we are and will always be just spinning our wheels in sand.