

When planning to move out of Idaho to escape the conservative mindsets that had set me back my entire life, I faced one of the hardest decisions of my life: where do I even go now? Lots of cities landed on my radar, Seattle, several in California, even cities out east were in consideration, despite my mother's protests. I landed on Portland, however, primarily because of something I always heard about the city, and for the past 8 years I have regularly convinced myself I made the right decision. That something was what people always responded with when I said I was considering Portland.

"The public transit is really good there"

2 weeks before I made the move, my car, a 1993 Subaru Legacy, which was the only car I had ever owned, had its engine fail. I couldn't afford to have it replaced, so I convinced a friend to help drive me out. Since then I've faced the choice between getting a new vehicle, a massive financial burden that would drain my savings and make rent a constant worry, or to rely on transit exclusively and live in relative comfort. It's an easy choice for me honestly, I live by a Max station and I have easy access to the 20, but unfortunately this kind of access isn't universal.

Public transit is part of what makes this city so wonderful, and improving our infrastructure and accessibility can only make it better for more people. Reliance on more lanes of traffic can only serve to alienate people like me, who are primarily pedestrians and passengers, and make our city less accessible and special.

Thank you for your time,
Maeve Fox