

Hello, I grew up in the Willamette valley region of Oregon. I wanted to give my two-cents on Oregonian public transportation.

The Portland region is very well served obviously, there are shortcomings to the region, most glaringly MAX service in Downtown Portland and on the Steel Bridge. The MAX light rail is great service to the region, but the slow speeds that the MAX trains are limited to in Downtown Portland mire the whole experience. Many people can take a bike and get through downtown faster than the Max. There is also the issue of bottlenecking on the Steel bridge which is used by 3 different Max lines, only so many trains can go over the bridge in a given hour and I believe Tri-Met is operating near that limit preventing them from providing more service to the entire city. I strongly support the idea of building a tunnel under downtown Portland to help alleviate these issues. It would be expensive, yes but its a band-aid that's best pulled off quickly. The benefits would be huge, trains would be able to go faster without worrying about car and pedestrian traffic. There could be more cars per train, greatly increasing the capacity of every single train and if the tunnel were built under the Willamette river it would solve the bottleneck on the steel bridge, allowing more frequent service altogether

I also think extending Max to new areas would be a huge benefit to the region as whole. I strongly support extending and expanding WES service down to The Salem/Keizer region. I also think extending the green line down to Oregon City and creating a new Max line to serve Tigard with future extension to Tualatin, Sherwood and Newberg would further connect the region and help with traffic congestion on all the major highways and I-5