

Hi,

This is a comment for Oregon Legislature Joint Committee on Transportation as per <https://x.com/trimet/status/1838259838348148819>.

Our regional transportation priorities should be in transit and other low or no emission travel. We should be working towards everyone having transit as a convenient and fast option to wherever they need to be. When we put funding into car based infrastructure it fails our emissions goals but also makes parts of our region less livable - louder, more polluted, and more dangerous. No one wants a highway in their front yard but many people desire a fast and frequent train outside their front door.

We should be focusing on first densifying the areas around all existing transit corridors, increasing transit frequency, and exploring new transit lines and areas for transit opportunities. We also have bus lines with high levels of ridership that we should examine as an opportunity to migrate to dedicated bus lanes or rail as an opportunity to increase ridership and meet the present demand.

In addition to these steps we should also increase the availability of our current transit systems by creating safe, direct, and separated bike lanes so that people can reach these transit systems via bike akin to a "wheel and spoke" pattern which can increase the ridership of our existing systems. In many areas near our transit systems we have poor land use (e.g. empty parking lots) and dangerous road conditions which means that even people living only a few blocks away may choose to opt out of taking transit because there is not a safe and convenient way to get there. Instead they choose to put wear and tear on our roads, increasing our road maintenance costs.

We should follow in the footsteps of the great cities of the world and make good on our emissions goals. This could move us to be more akin to Paris, or Tokyo, or Amsterdam and bringing with it cleaner air, less pollution, and more vibrant cities.

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