

Dear Friends,

I am a new, Trimet passenger. I am a constituent who has recently become car-less and also experiences special needs. In the past, 6 months of having to use public transportation, I have found myself very grateful. I have difficulty getting around due to a brain injury and other issues resulting from a critical illness and being in a coma.

Most of the time, I utilize your bus 57 and bus 52 routes and the Max on occasion. I have been pleasantly surprised at the ease of getting the bus! I utilize your PDX BUS App regularly and strongly encourage you to add to resource tools such as this. The App has allowed me to plan out trips and have a bit more confidence in my ability to travel alone. I still get lost at times (brain injury not the App) or miss the bus. However, having resources such as this readily available have proved invaluable for me.

Another aspect of switching from driving to public transit is the availability of buses in more neighborhood areas and remote places. Hillsboro could use more routes I believe. Lack of public transit in rural and neighborhood areas means that many folks either cannot access work/ home in those areas or may have to rely on ride shares like Uber, etc. which are very costly. Not to mention, these types of areas lack safe passage for walkers or bikers.

Lastly, and this last aspect deals with accessibility to buses etc. I have noticed (now that I am a pedestrian and without a car) that there are not adequate places to walk in much of Washington County. For example, there are no sidewalks along most of route 8/ TV Hwy in Aloha, Beaverton or Hillsboro. In addition, streets such as 185th, Kinnamon, Cornelius Pass Rd and other streets in Aloha and Hillsboro lack safe walking routes. This is just to name a few. Lack of sidewalks is dangerous and lacks vision for a multi-faceted community with mixed incomes and varied levels of green awareness. After all, some people have to walk places out of necessity. While others may wish to walk, but lack safe places to walk.

Thank you for taking time to review my email. I am very appreciative of the public transit system here. As someone who lived in Chicago and other states, I believe Portland is moving in the right direction. I have used public transit in over 20 countries. I suggest Portland look at models in places such as Singapore and China. China in particular is doing amazing things in some cities.(I lived there 15 years and saw this first-hand.)

Thank you and I wish future projects great success!

Regards,

Jena Ruhyyih Bagley