

I am an electric car driver and I am happy to pay more on my income or property taxes to help pay for the upkeep of our roads and sidewalks and for more public charging stations.

Currently my family is fortunate enough to afford two cars, but that wasn't always the case. In the past we only had one car and we had to make choices about who got to drive to work and who had to take the bus or ride a bike. I enjoyed my bus rides. I got to listen to a podcast or read a book and I didn't have to deal with any traffic jams. My current job is in a location that is really not served by transit. With a car it takes me between 20-30 minutes to get to work, on the bus it would take almost an hour and 20 minutes and require walking a mile. And that doesn't even get into trying to get my kiddo to and from school along with a work commute.

Even when I have tried to take transit somewhere for recreation, it has been extremely frustrating. We planned a trip to OMSI and were going to take the orange line. I parked at the park and ride, walked over to the station, bought a ticket and got to the platform. Something was wrong with the MAX and we were told we had to wait over 20 minutes for a shuttle bus. So we just drove to OMSI because it would take the same amount of time.

My seven year old learned how to ride a bike this summer. So far we have stayed on sidewalks while I walk behind her. But I am looking forward to family bike trips in the future. I want us to be able to hop on our bikes to the library or the farmers market and feel safe riding on roads, not just on the sidewalk or the multi-use trails.

We have to build a transit system that works for all Oregonians and prioritizes climate goals. Adding more lanes to freeways or building a new columbia river crossing without light rail is not the answer.

Thank you for your consideration.

-Marika Zimmerly-Beck
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