

My hopes and dreams for a transportation system are one that serves all parts of the state so that people can get around without using an automobile. (For example, many people cannot get to our state capitol without driving. This makes our government essentially inaccessible to much of the population of the state.) What we need very badly is a transportation system that is low in cost enough for everyone, including low income and marginalized members of the community, to afford to get around the state for work, recreation, or just to see and hear and feel the place where we live. We need to make it easier and less costly to get where we want and need to go without an individual vehicle. We also can benefit health wise by reducing our dependence on fossil fuels and other harmful and unsustainable sources of energy. Our ideal, and at this point in the climate crisis, necessary system would also be much more energy efficient, making us less dependent on harmful and polluting sources of energy. In other words, we need to live within our means by promoting a system accessible for everyone that serves all parts of the state. Another example, it is very difficult if not impossible, for people on fixed income, to visit many of the beautiful parts of the state that draw people from all parts of the world. Why is there no public bus service that can get you to all parts of the state. There does not seem to be a 'greyhound bus' getting people from or to rural areas, and the rail system is poor because it does not own the tracks and must be sidetracked for freight. This makes scheduling infrequent and unreliable. Reliability is necessary for people to use it. One bus per day to the beach or the coast is not conducive to people visiting our great assets. I have tried to get to many places within easy distance from Portland, but a bus system does not exist. For example, to get from Rainier to Portland, you have to take a bus to Longview, WA and then a train or bus to Portland, making it an all day trip and not inexpensive. This is for an hour or less trip by car. Just some suggestions.... Thanks for the opportunity to comment.

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