The decrease of ridership in public transit in Portland

My personal experience riding public transit as a youth/woman:

I have been writing public transportation for the longest ever since I learned how to navigate a system since I was 13 I rely on public transportation to get to work and to get to school every morning, It cuts through traffic when getting to downtown in the morning. Bad experiences can happen at any time and at anywhere, but it's best not to interact with people who might be going through an emotional episode. As a young woman, I have had encounters with harassment while there is no transit security around. I understand why some guardians of youth might not let them take public transit because of things they heard, but I am here today to try and change that perspective. It would be a win-win if there is more writer ship on train and trust built between guardians letting younger people navigate the transportation system in Portland. Looking at both perspectives, I can understand what flaws can be fixed to encourage more youth/adult ridership, a majority of oregonians do not drive or have access to a car.

What the MYC has considered as a whole when it comes to ridership flaws:

SAFETY:

- **What would help you feel safer?**
  - More safety officers
  - No weapons allowed on the bus/train
- **Safety issues on TriMet?**
  - Drug use
  - Not enough safety staff
  - Trimet bus or Max drivers are not trained
  - Feeling unsafe when waiting for the bus
  - Violence
  - Harassment, sketchy people talking to you
  - etc…

ACCESSIBILITY:

- **How far is the nearest bus stop for people? (minutes)**
- **Are the accessibility features for wheelchairs on the bus/max adequate?**
- **Are the ramps too steep?**
- **When it's crowded on the bus/max, is it hard to use a wheelchair?**
- **Do you feel rushed getting off the bus/max when you are disabled or do bus/max drivers refuse to let you on if they think you'll take too much time?**

WHAT MAKES TRIMET/PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION GREAT?

- Cost is low
- Consistent buses I use come by
- Takes you places
- Any other things you might like?
- If you have more ideas add to your worksheet!

" Equity in public transportation "

Communities that have been historically underserved (often low-income neighborhoods or communities of color) should have more frequent times they pass by so people can get to school, work, healthcare, and grocery stores.

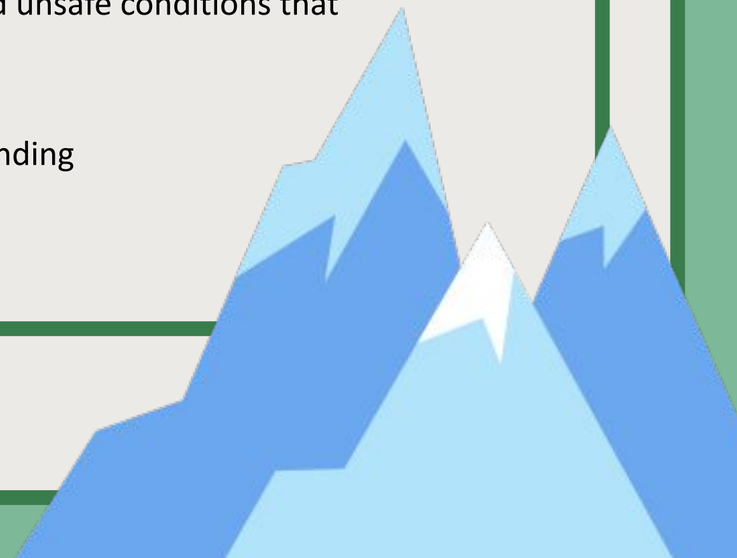
Students from east county schools (ex: Parkrose, David Douglas) have access to youthpass so they can get to clubs, school, work and be more involved in the community

Transit systems should be more accessible for people with disabilities, older adults, and people with mobility challenges.

Everyone deserves to feel safe on trimet. Equity includes addressing harassment, discrimination, poor lighting, and unsafe conditions that disproportionately affect women, youth, LGBTQ+ riders, and marginalized communities.

Equity also means reducing pollution in communities that have historically borne the brunt of highways, and expanding

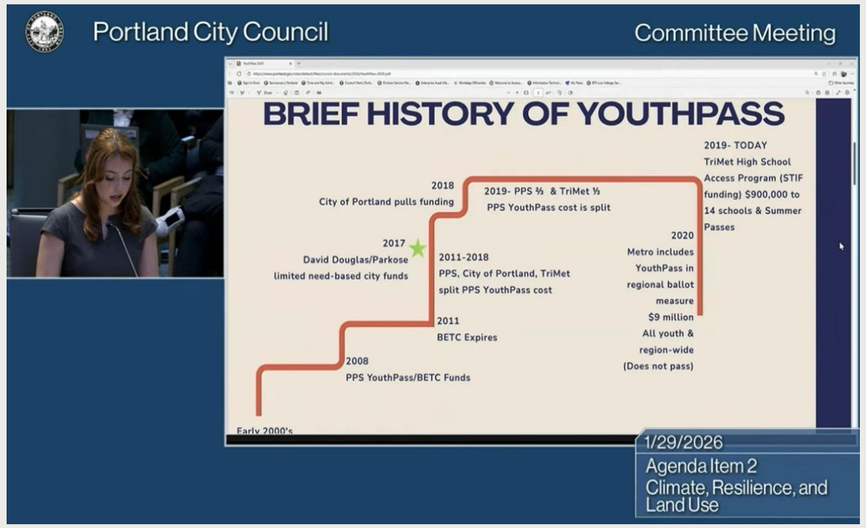
clean transit options (greener bus fleet)



What is youthpass?

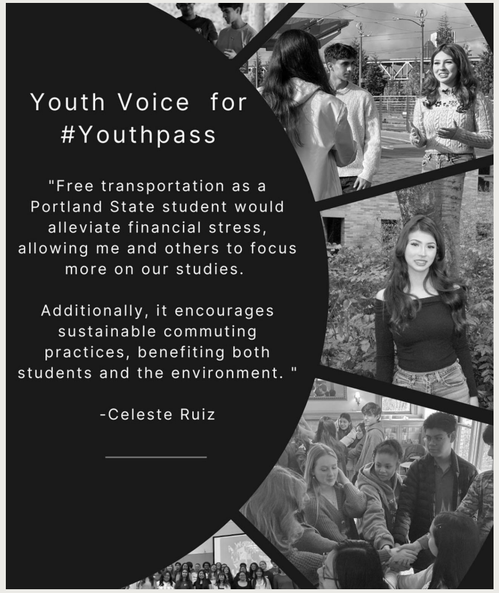
Youthpass is accessible transportation for youth, students in the Portland Public Schools district have youthpass implemented on their student ID’s. Unfortunately this is not the case for students in the east county school district like (Reynolds, David Douglas, Parkrose and so on…) The Multnomah Youth Commission has been working on getting youthpass for more than a decade, we have gotten a lot of support from representatives and have educated students across Portland. Students in the east county school district typically live in low income neighborhoods and often ride public transportation without hop cards, which puts them at risk to get excluded from Trimet. Fee’s are usually $75 to $250 per strike.

YOUTHPASS ADVOCACY FROM THE MYC



TESTIFYING TO CITY COUNCIL

Educating city council members on why Youthpass would be beneficial to the community if invested by PCEF funding



SOCIAL MEDIA

Getting quotes from different students and posting them on our social media

YOUTHPASS EVENT

Last year in April of 2025, the MYC hosted a youth thrift pop up with boba, with a photobooth and free food. Flyers were put up at schools and East County students were encouraged to come join us that day

Get In Touch

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Social Media

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