PORTLAND 2045

TRANSPORTATION SYSTEM PLAN

Summary of interest themes

From Community Advisory Committee Three Wishes activity

August 2025

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Questions?

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Advisory committee engagement

In their July 24, 2025 meeting, Community Advisory Committee (CAC) members for the 2045 Transportation System Plan (TSP) used an Appreciative Inquiry interview process to each develop three wishes for the future of Portland's transportation system. CAC members who could not attend emailed their three wishes directly to staff for inclusion. Wishes were added to a collective "Wish Wall" and members supported initial efforts to group wishes of similar nature.

Figure 1: Image of Wish Wall with colorful paper all over it. Each piece of paper includes a wish from a CAC member.

Developing the interest themes

The project team organized the CAC's wishes for the future of Portland's transportation system into thematic groupings with wishes appearing to hold similar interests, attempting to capture and build upon initial efforts to group wishes made by CAC members in their meeting. The project team then summarized the interests into what developed into five nuanced themes, at times combining initial theme concepts to capture some of the clearer examples of intersectionality (aka crossover with other interest themes). Most wishes appear to have intersectionality with multiple interest themes however each wish is listed just once under one of the five summarized themes as an illustrated example of that theme.

Not all wishes "agree" with one another, in fact, some are quite opposite, however each wish found a primary theme with areas of shared interests in a "mutually inclusive" design that allows differing opinions to coexist as it illustrates overall themes for mutual

alignment. Themes are listed below in the order of the number of leading relevant examples indicated.

Summary of themes

The themes included:

1. Safety and accessibility for everyone (26 example wishes)
2. Safer, faster, smoother options (15 example wishes)
3. Supporting community and neighborhood development (9 example wishes)
4. A healthy climate and environment for future generations (9 example wishes)
5. Maintaining our assets (8 example wishes)
6. Big moves (6 example wishes)

Draft statement of summary:

The 2045 TSP CAC wishes for Portland's transportation system to be safe and easy for everyone to use, no matter where they live. They wish for Portland to aim to provide quicker, smoother, and more eco-friendly travel options with a goal to create lively neighborhoods that are focused on people. They want to make sure the transportation system is ready for future generations, making it efficient, affordable, and sustainable. They want Portland to maintain the infrastructure responsibly so people can rely on it now and in the future, and they want Portland to lead with new ideas and big improvements.

Theme 1: Safety and accessibility for everyone

Portland's transportation system should be and feel safe and accessible no matter who you are or what part of town you live in so that everyone can enjoy the freedom of making the transportation mode choices they please.

Example wishes:

1. Improve safety for all users
2. Develop a solution for senior transportation that responds to your community differently
3. Fully fleshed out and designed East Portland roads
4. Make system serving persons with disabilities truly equivalent, same-day service
5. Safe for all.
6. That there is beauty in the system (garden islands, sight lines preserved)
7. Increased pedestrian crossings along 82nd, Killingsworth, other high traffic roads

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8. Started on substantive action on East PDX's transportation deficiencies
9. I wish in 2045 that it is harder/ slower/ less convenient to travel via private automobile (i.e. parking permits and fees, less lanes, slower speeds, de-prioritized at every level)
10. Better curb cuts and street crossings outside of downtown
11. More sidewalks and bike lanes in Southwest Portland
12. I wish in 2045 for fully separated and dedicated bike ways not sharing with cars as an afterthought but fully separated and safe from automobile traffic
13. Safety so a kid can walk around their neighborhood to school, friends, parks without their parents worrying they'll get hit crossing the street
14. Safer cycling infrastructure along major routes in North and East Portland, especially coinciding with larger high traffic roads
15. A walk or roll is possible for ages and abilities
16. Harassment free sidewalks so vulnerable people feel safe not driving everywhere
17. Safer -making Vision Zero a reality
18. Close all slip lanes
19. Proactive safety improvements at high crash intersections
20. Many more red light cameras
21. Biking, walking, rolling access across the city that feels safe for all
22. No feelings of fear, deprivation, limitation associated with not driving. Freedom and real choices for all people and parts of the city.
23. Increased accessibility of sidewalks outside of downtown
24. I wish for at least one new streetcar line by PBOT that connects and circulates pedestrians in currently underserved by rail transit communities (i.e. East Portland, St. Johns)
25. More accessibility to transit for our most vulnerable
26. Better affordability for public transit or offering vouchers

Theme 2: Safer, faster, smoother options

Safer, faster, smoother transportation options and solutions to help people and goods move more reliably and sustainably while making alternative mode choices more practical for more people to choose them.

Example wishes:

1. Revisit traffic flow focusing on better movement. Examples- roundabouts versus streetlights to reduce idling
2. Frequent Transit options close at hand around the city

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3. Successful ways for freight and active transportation to share the road
4. Increase safety on TriMet -build trust in transit
5. BAT (Business Access and Transit)/ Rose Lanes on high traffic roads to mitigate transit cuts
6. Faster commute times on Max and bus
7. Freedom of knowing you can travel (without a car) without planning ahead -knowing that a bus will come soon, that a bike share bike will be where you need it
8. Providing Portlanders with transportation choices. Walking, biking, transit and driving that are convenient and safe
9. More night and early morning shuttles
10. More creative modes for transit
11. Reduced traffic congestion
12. Expanded bicycle infrastructure and storage
13. Broaden and expand transit -speed, safety, ease of use
14. Bike network: separate bike roads so e-bikes can move at speed. More bike use than cars
15. More infrastructure for transportation

Theme 3: Supporting community and neighborhood development

Develop the transportation system to serve and support Portland's housing and land use for vibrant people-centered neighborhoods.

Example wishes:

1. Compact centers and corridors (10-minute neighborhoods)
2. Activation of neighborhood, plazas, etc. in East Portland
3. I wish I could walk to everything I need in 15 minutes
4. Neighborhoods scaled for people, not cars, with what you need to live close at hand
5. Transportation more fully integrated with housing/ work/ play policies and programs
6. Our transportation system has helped us build lots and lots of new housing, good job access in many neighborhoods and every district
7. Pedestrian streets. One street in each district
8. A concerted and financed effort at creating 15-minute communities. If we expect folks to get out of their cars, we need to give them options that are realistic
9. That the system allows Portlanders to be in community to get their needs met without getting in a car

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Theme 4: A healthy climate and environment for future generations

Ensure the transportation system of tomorrow is shaped with and for the next generation of Portlanders so they inherit the benefits of a healthy climate and environment where equitable access to efficient, affordable, and sustainable transportation is the norm.

Example wishes:

1. Meaningful youth power and engagement in transportation decisions
2. Children in our community grow up valuing active transportation
3. No I-5 expansion!
4. Emissions down, environmental justice up
5. More subsidies for EV and hybrid
6. Continued investment into our rail network to broaden ridership i.e. streetcar routes Max line South
7. Different transportation politics: Implement tolling, build Southwest Corridor, utilize modal filters
8. Free year-round transit for youth
9. Better and more safe routes to school

Theme 5: Maintaining our assets

Funding the basic maintenance needs of our transportation infrastructure and delivering projects with fiscal responsibility and sustainability so the public knows they can rely on the system to serve their needs safely now and into the future.

1. No more potholes or divides like on Division
2. Invest in maintaining the transportation system we have today
3. New stable funding options for capital and operation/ maintenance
4. Well-funded and maintained system overall including a sidewalk and bike lane maintenance and vegetation trimming not just dependent on private property owners
5. A high functioning and well-funded transit system that constantly is being improved upon
6. Change the imbalance between funding and project costs. Both sides: more funding, more cost-effective delivery
7. Facilitated by and of commission for a TSP that fits with new government
8. Consistent sidewalk maintenance

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Theme 6: Big moves

Lead with innovation and big moves for the transportation system.

Example wishes:

1. A full complete network of multi-use paths separated from vehicles. It will take political courage and would be revolutionary
2. We are innovating, doing something ambitious and weird and cutting edge that's inspiring other cities (or making them jealous 😊)
3. Subway/ tram. Three stops under downtown. Tram and streetcar on existing light rail track
4. I wish you couldn't drive downtown
5. Remove the Marquam bridge
6. I-5 buried underground from the Northern I-405 intersection to Southern I-405 intersection. Why on Earth would we give away our most valuable riverfront land to concrete and pollution?

Next steps

The CAC will help refine this DRAFT of their interest themes that came from their wishes engagement, recognizing that these particular themes that came from their engagement do not need to address every aspect of need for the future of Portland's transportation system. The project team will, however, aim to ensure that these themes are reflected in the vision, goals, and objectives developed from the public three wishes survey results and that the overall vision, goals, and objectives are consistent with legal requirements of the TSP (including from the Transportation Planning Rules, Regional Transportation Plan, and 2035 Portland Comprehensive Plan).

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Full list of CAC wishes, unsorted

- Children in our community grow up valuing active transportation.
- Increased accessibility of sidewalks outside of downtown.
- Better curb cuts and street crossings outside of downtown.
- Many more red-light cameras.
- Safer - making Vision Zero a reality.
- Providing Portlanders with Transportation choices. Walking, biking, transit and driving that are convenient and safe.
- No more potholes or divides like on division.
- Better and more safe routes to school.
- Harassment free sidewalks so vulnerable people feel safe not driving everywhere.
- Improve safety for all users.
- More night and early morning shuttles.
- Proactive safety improvements at high crash intersections.
- I wish in 2045 for fully separated and dedicated bike ways not sharing with cars as an afterthought but fully separated and safe from automobile traffic.
- Biking, walking, rolling access across the city that feels safe for all.
- Safer cycling infrastructure along major routes in North and East Portland, especially coinciding with larger high traffic roads.
- Safety so a kid can walk around their neighborhood to school, friends, parks without their parents worrying they'll get hit crossing the street.
- Safe for all.
- That there is beauty in the system (garden Islands, sight lines preserved).
- That the system allows Portlanders to be in community to get their needs met without getting in a car
- A walk or roll is possible for ages and abilities.
- Develop a solution for senior transportation that responds to your community differently.
- Emissions down, environmental justice up: we've drastically reduced ghg emissions from transportation, alongside increasing access to clean and safe transportation, options (Transit, walking rolling) for marginalized communities, including things like expanding the tree, canopy and access to shade.
- Pedestrian streets. One Street in each district.
- Faster commute times on Max and bus.
- A full complete Network of multi-use paths separated from vehicles. It will take political courage and would be revolutionary.
- Broaden and expand transit- speed, safety, ease of use.
- Fully fleshed out and designed East Portland roads.

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- Subway/ tram. Three stops under downtown. Tram and streetcar on existing light rail track.
- Frequent Transit options close at hand around the city.
- I wish for at least one new streetcar line by PBOT that connects and circulates pedestrians in currently underserved by rail Transit communities (ie East Portland, St. John's).
- More accessibility to Transit for our most vulnerable.
- Well-Funded and maintained system overall including a sidewalk and bike lane maintenance and vegetation trimming- not just dependent on private property owners.
- More creative modes for transit.
- BAT (Business Access and Transit)/ Rose Lanes on high traffic roads to mitigate transit cuts.
- We are innovating, doing something ambitious and weird and cutting Edge that inspiring other cities (or making them jealous :))
- Successful ways for freight and active transportation to share the road.
- Into great the rivers into our broader transportation system.
- A high functioning and well-funded transit system that constantly is being improved upon: more frequency, free Transit at least for people 22 and under, more shade and shelters, more Transit Lanes, weather hardening (more resistant against intense heat for example) later service hours.
- Transportation more fully integrated with housing/work/play policies and programs.
- Facilitated by and of commission for a tsp that fits with new government.
- Better affordability for public transit or offering vouchers.
- New stable funding options capital and operation/maintenance.
- Freedom of knowing you can travel (without a car) without planning ahead- knowing that a bus will come soon, that a Bike share bike will be where you need it.
- Increased ped crossings along 82nd, Killingsworth, other high traffic roads.
- Started on substantive action on East PDX's transportation deficiencies.
- More sidewalks and bike Lanes in Southwest Portland.
- Revisit traffic flow focusing on better movement. Examples- roundabouts versus lights streetlights to reduce idling.
- No feelings of fear, deprivation, limitation associated with not driving. Freedom and real choices for all people and parts of the city.
- Invest in maintaining the transportation system that we have today.
- More infrastructure for transportation.
- More subsidies for EV and hybrid.
- Change the imbalance between funding and project costs. Both sides: more funding, more cost-effective delivery.

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- I-5 buried underground from the northern i-405 intersection to Southern i-405 intersection. Why on Earth would we give away our most valuable riverfront land to concrete and pollution?
- Remove the Marquam bridge.
- Continued investment into our rail network to broaden ridership I.e. streetcar routes Max line South.
- Our transportation system has helped us build lots and lots of new housing, good job access in many neighborhoods and every district.
- Activation of neighborhood, plazas, etc. In East Portland.
- Close all slip lanes.
- Different Transportation politics: implement tolling, build Southwest Corridor, utilize modal filters.
- Bike Network: separate bike roads so e-bikes can move at speed. More bike use than cars.
- No I-5 expansion!
- I wish I could walk to everything I need in 15 minutes.
- Compact centers and corridors (10-minute neighborhoods).
- Make system serving persons with disabilities truly equivalent, same-day service.
- Free year-round transit for youth.
- A concerted and financed effort at creating 15-minute communities. If we expect folks to get out of their cars, we need to give them options that are realistic.
- Neighborhoods scaled for people, not cars, with what you need to live close at hand.
- I wish in 2045 that it is harder/ slower/ less convenient to travel via private automobile (i.e. parking permits and fees, less Lanes, slower speeds, de-prioritized at every level)
- Increase safety on TriMet- build trust in transit.
- Meaningful youth power and engagement in transportation decisions.
- I wish you couldn't drive downtown
- Reduced traffic congestion
- Consistent sidewalk maintenance
- Expanded bicycle infrastructure and storage

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