

The Anchorage Tram Project

Or Why Anchorage needs
Light Rail Transit



“A developed country is not a place where
the poor have cars. It's where the rich use
public transportation.”

-Gustavo Petro

By Evan Leaf

Defining Trams

- ❖ Trams are a form of Light Rail Transit
- ❖ Multi-Vehicle Urban Trains that run on Rail and Electricity
- ❖ Trams service as rapid public transportation on a street level



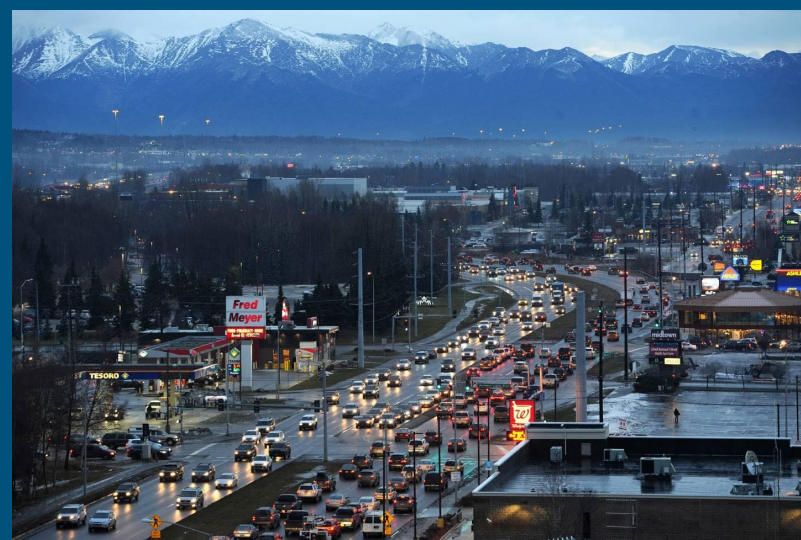
Melbourne Tram driving through the Fitzroy area, Australia [1]



Inside a Portland, OR TriMet MAX train [2]

What do Trams Accomplish?

- ❖ Trams bring economic and population growth where they service [3]
- ❖ Stations become centres of communities and amenities
- ❖ Density & development is encouraged, eliminating parking in popular areas



Seward Highway traffic (Bill Roth / ADN) [5]



A tram in Tallinn, Estonia [4]

What Anchorage looks like



Northern Lights Blvd [8] Diamond Center and Old Seward [9]

Downtown aerial view

M St - C st فف

- ❖ Excess Parking
- ❖ Wide Roads
- ❖ Difficult to Walk



Benson Bus Stop [19]



Trams improve Transportation

- ❖ Tram commuting alleviates car traffic
- ❖ Tramlines increase ease of mobility
- ❖ Reliable schedules and comfort creates popular public transportation
- ❖ Biking is encouraged, Trams cut down travel distances



Tram with a bike rack in Stuttgart, Germany [14]

“Transit is the backbone of a city in which bicycling thrives”

- 2024 Cycling Urbanism Masterclass of Helsinki



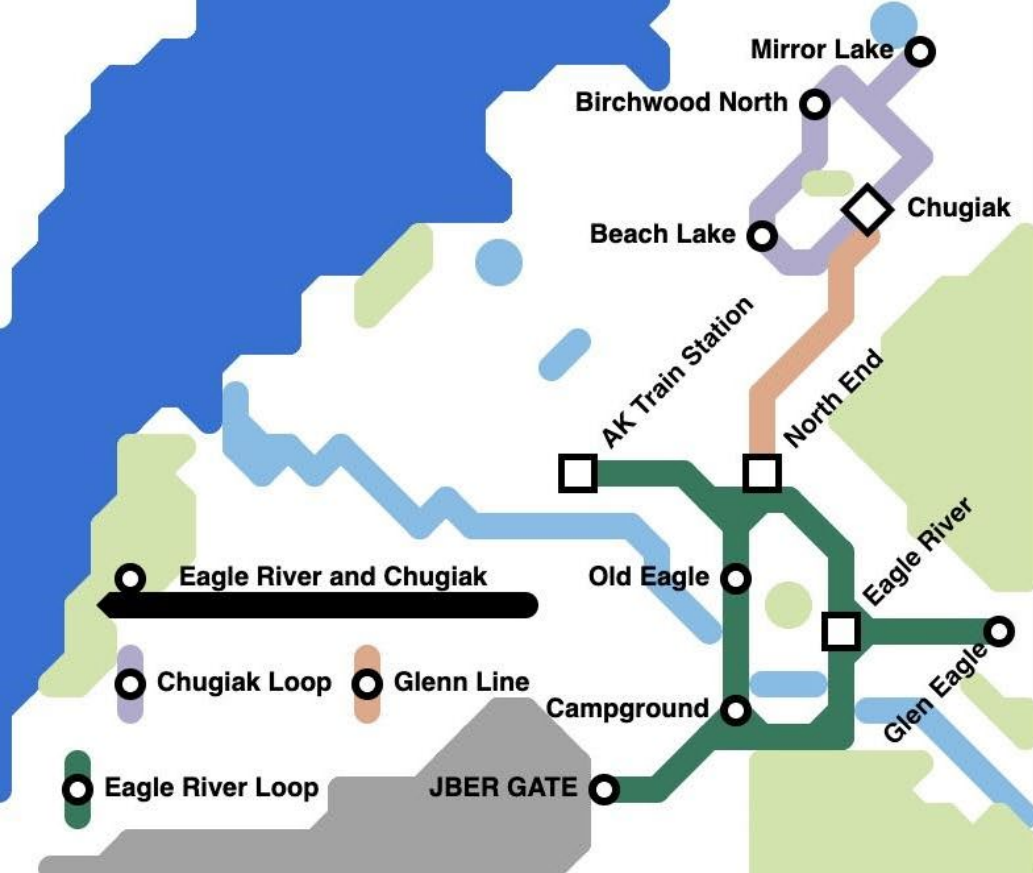
Leipzig, Germany, Tram with Plow [20]



Marseille, France, Tram Line [21]

Other Benefits of Trams

- ❖ Less cars on the road improves air quality and reduces noise pollution
- ❖ Trams are capable of operating efficiently in cold climates
- ❖ Trams aid visitors and tourists
- ❖ Dissuades drunk driving by people going to bars via public transit



Eagle River & Chugiak

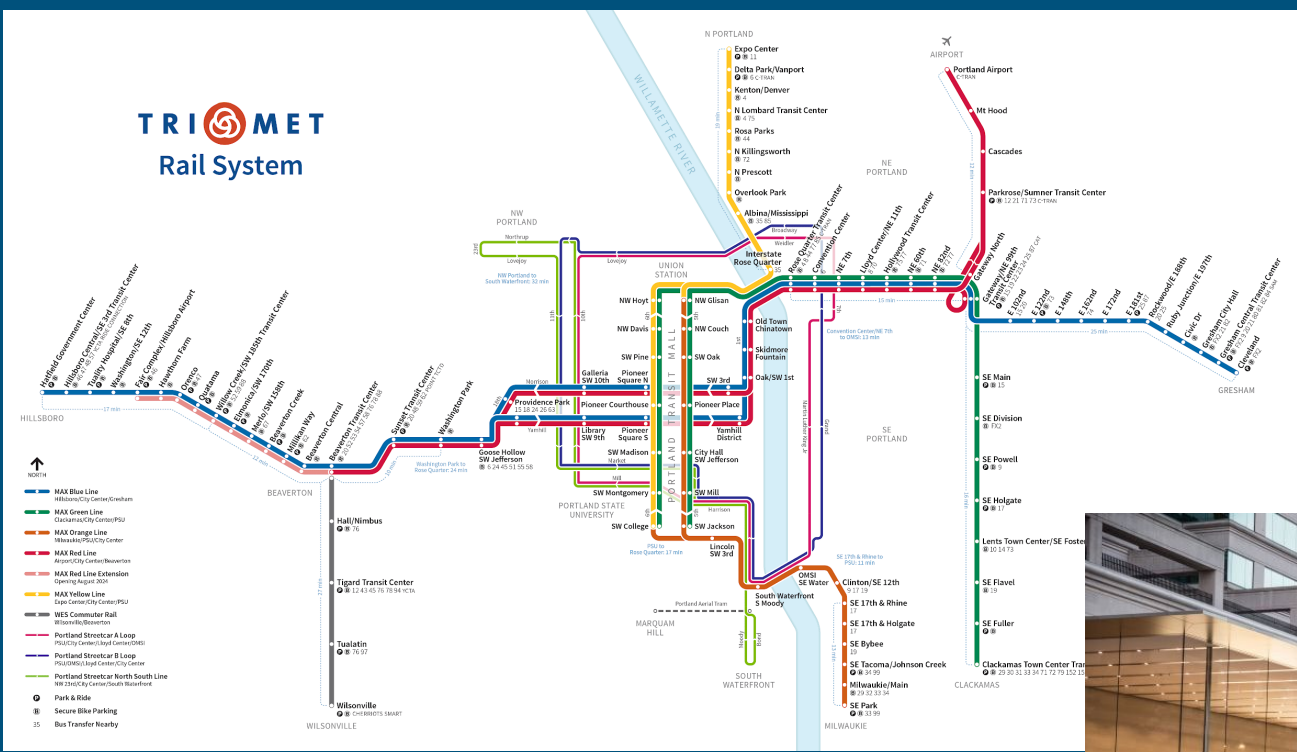


Created by Evan Leaf

Girdwood

Portland, Oregon

- ❖ First two lines made in under 5 years
- ❖ Last four lines made in under a year each [13]

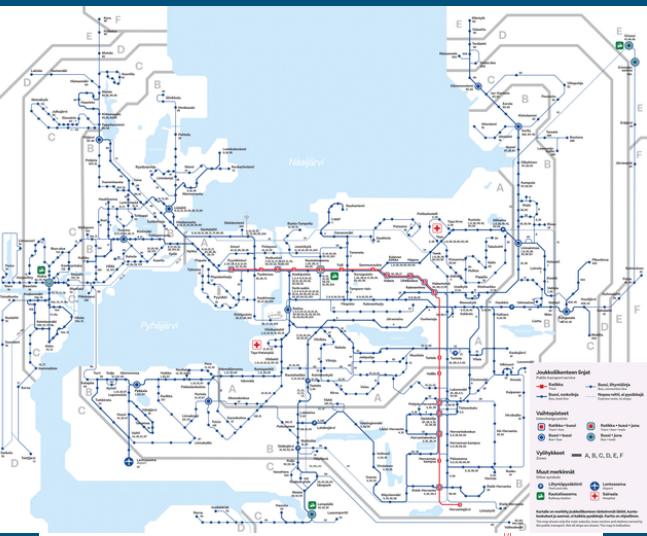


Portland TRIMET-Max Transit Map [12]

“MAX has become a national model for community support, land-use/transportation planning, public art and environmentally friendly construction practices” - *TriMet.org* [13]



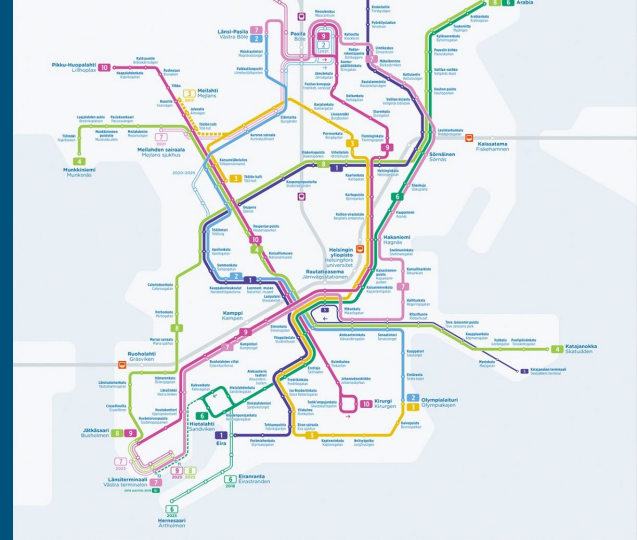
Portland tram in downtown [11]



Tampere Finland Maps[14] [15]



- ❖ Tampere Finland Tram [17]
 - Tampere has smaller population to Anchorage
 - Tampere Pop. 226,000
 - Anchorage Pop. 287,000
- Tram map of Helsinki [18]



❖ Helsinki Finland Tram

ظباطف

- Has similar climate
- Anc Lat. 61.2. N
- Tampere Lat. 61.4. N





Sapporo Tram next to road [23]

Sapporo, Japan



Melbourne Tram next to road [22]

Melbourne, Australia



Tudor Road Anchorage, Alaska [25]

The Long and the Short of It

- 318,000 Anchorage Vehicles registered in DMV (2022) [26]
- Pop. of MOA 287,000 (2022)

- ❖ Anchorage will grow
- ❖ The City suffers sprawl, congestion, a lack of housing, the high cost of living, and pollution

- ❖ Anchorage needs alternatives to the current transportation
- ❖ City Issues won't be solved continuing the current status quo
- ❖ Over-reliance on automobiles is unsustainable [27]

Conclusion

- ❖ Transit Oriented Development is human scaled development
- ❖ Trams offer a physical infrastructure solution
 - Top of the line in quality
 - It is achievable
 - Other Cities prove its viability
- ❖ It would connect and upgrade The Municipality of Anchorage



Streetcar in Seattle, Washington [24]

“The reality about transportation is that it's future-oriented. If we're planning for what we have, we're behind the curve.”

-Anthony Foxx

Citations

[1] Melbourne tram driving through the Fitzroy area (Photo by Alexi Rosenfeld/Getty Images)

[2] Inside a TriMet MAX train. TAYLOR GRIGGS

[3] <http://www.tod.org/> Transit Oriented Development

[4] A tram in tallinn (Source: [Flickr](#)/Aapo Haapanen.)

[5] Seward Highway traffic as seen from atop the CIRI Fireweed Business Center. (Bill Roth / ADN)

[6] <https://eardleydesign.com/halls/anchorage/>

History of Anchorage City Hall (© 2023 Anthony Eardley)

[7]

[8] https://www.reddit.com/r/CityPorn/comments/z5wpy5/a_shitty_city_with_a_pretty_view_anchorage/#lightbox ProfEarth Photo

[9] <https://www.anchorage.net/listing/diamond-center/35892/> Visit Alaska Photo

[10] <https://www.muni.org/Departments/transit/PeopleMover/Page/s/2019servicechange.aspx> People Mover.org Photo

[11] <https://www.travelportland.com/plan/max-light-rail/> Max Light rail Travel Portland

[12] <https://trimet.org/max/index.htm> TriMet Light Rail Service Photo

[13] <https://trimet.org/history/maxoverview.htm> History of the TriMAX

[14] <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DdzCy0yKvfg> Stuttgart Bike Rack Photo (ErebosSan)

[15] <https://www.urbanrail.net/eu/fr/tampere/tampere.htm> Tampere Tram Line Map ([Robert Schwandl](#).)

[16] https://www.reddit.com/r/TransitDiagrams/comments/nqh19k/bus_and_tram_diagram_of_tampere_finland_tampere/ Photo by Finstu

Citations (continued)

[17] <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6msoh8rEDU> Tampere Trams under a Blizzard (Scholarship Opportunities)

[18] <https://transitmap.net/helsinki-tram-alex/> Tram Map of Helsinki (By Mikko)

[19] Benson Bus Stop, Photo by Evan Leaf

[20] <https://www.urban-transport-magazine.com/en/permanys-public-transport-in-a-lockdown-due-to-massive-snow-fall/> Leipzig Tram with Plow Photo (Jan Rennert)

[21] <https://www.lemonde.fr/blog/transports/2012/09/06/marseille-la-vraie-galerie-des-transports/> Marseilles Tram Line Photo

[22] https://railgallery.wongm.com/a-class-tram-trials/F109_8860.jpg.html Tram in Melbourne AU (Wongms' Rail Gallery)

[23] https://www.reddit.com/r/trams/comments/112lwd/streetcar_tram_in_sapporo_hokkaido/ Photo of tram in Sapporo Japan, (nicholasdavidsmith)

[24] <https://www.burbanet.org/2018/07/18/mayor-darkan-refuses-to-meet-with-mobian-banking-center-city-streetcar/> housing Matters Seattle WA Tram (CineCam/Shutterstock)

[25] <https://www.adn.com/alaska-news/anchorage/2020/11/30/a-peribus-anchorage-intersection-and-a-season-of-pedestrian-deaths/> Photo of Tudor Road Anchorage AK (ADN)

[26] https://doa.alaska.gov/dmv/research/pdfs/2022_RegisteredVehiclesByBoundaryReport.pdf 2022 DMV of Alaska report of registered Vehicles

[27] <https://texasimpact.org/the-unsustainable-reality-of-a-car-centric-united-states/> Texas Impact, The Unsustainable Reality of a Car-centric United States