

I live in SE Portland, own an e-bike, and use it for both transportation and recreation. I ride in traffic using bike lanes (when available) and try to use greenways when I can. I am very grateful for the bike infrastructure we have, but it could be so much better--and safer! I can't tell you how many times I encounter aggressive drivers. Not just speeding drivers (lots of those too!) but drivers actually trying to run me off the road or tailgate me on greenways. I love biking so I'm not going to stop, but we need to have safer streets. Just this past Saturday I had a driver coming at me on a residential road. They were speeding and they did not move over. I was as far over to the right as I could get (there were many cars parked on the street.) They came within an inch of me and I heard them accelerate when they passed me. Scared the crap out of me. Especially after what happened on Stark with that driver purposely running over pedestrians! I wondered in that moment if I was going to be another victim of vehicular assault. I also see drivers often times driving in the bike lanes on busier streets. What will it take to get those bike lanes protected? Also, there are potholes, gravel and debris in many of the bike lanes, making them dangerous to ride in. Add on top of that, cars speeding by, and it's really scary. How is this going to encourage new riders? I have so many friends who would love to bike but they are terrified of riding anywhere near cars. I am too but I won't be kept off my bike. I just had an accident on Sunday, February 28, 2021 on Hawthorne near 12th street. I had crossed the Hawthorne Bridge heading east.... I remember passing Clever Cycles on 9th and then waking up in an ambulance! According to whoever called 911 (I was knocked unconscious when I fell head first off my bike), I slipped on loose gravel and crashed. I have no recollection of the crash. I was unconscious. I had been riding in the bike lane. There's tons of gravel in bike lanes all over the city that have not been swept up after the snow storm two weeks earlier. Our bike lanes need the same attention given to car lanes!! When they are not maintained, they are dangerous!!!! My goodness. I was in the ER most of Sunday and was extremely fortunate to not have any broken bones or internal bleeding. I had a pretty bad concussion and ended up having to take time off of work--and I'm still recovering. This isn't right. Our bike lanes are used by bikes, pedestrians and sometimes wheelchairs. We need to get more people out of cars and onto bikes but it's not going to happen in the numbers we want to see until people feel safe. And we have enough protected bike lanes that connect all over town. Portland has the opportunity to be a leader in the climate crisis and should do everything in it's power to move in this direction. Please, let's create and maintain safe bike infrastructure throughout our city and be the leader that others follow.