

From: [Annie Pomeranz](#)
To: [Council Clerk – Testimony](#)
Subject: A Kids" View of Portland
Date: Monday, October 24, 2022 10:23:35 AM

Recently I was a chaperone on my third grader's class field trip to learn about Portland's bridges. The trip required 3 TriMet rides. On 2 of the 3 train rides the entire boarding area of the car was filled with a cartload of possessions & refuse, a bicycle to tote it, and a sleeping person spread across a bench (the smell nearly unbearable). These are random trains, random cars, in mid-day with a 66% rate of occurrence. The Bridge Tour involved a lot of walking (5 miles!) through downtown and along the waterfront. On numerous occasions, parents had to form barriers on the sidewalks and lead children to walk in the street to avoid piles of discarded syringe needles. Refuse, campsites, and unstable individuals were visible at every vantage point throughout the experience.

This is not a humane way for anyone to live. **This is not what our children should be taking away from a class field trip to learn about our city.**

Permitting, encouraging, and fortifying camping on our sidewalks, in our parks, and on our public transit is unacceptable, unhealthy, and dangerous to all. The people and children of Portland deserve better.

Change is possible. Change is necessary. There are pathways to bringing about positive, dignified solutions. Please support the proposed resolutions (899-903).

Thank you,
Annie Pomeranz
Resident of SE Portland since 2008