Ride Transit
Be an #orcahero
This comic was produced in collaboration between Washington Environmental Council & Transportation Choices Coalition for ORCA Month / Ride Transit Month
When we talk about pollution, we tend to think of something like this:

Those rotten polluters, we say.

But actually...!

It turns out stormwater is the largest source of pollution in Puget Sound!
This is obviously an issue when you get as much rain as we do in our region.
When our surfaces are porous, the land can act like a sponge.

Oopsie!
Hey, let's aim for that river!

Did you know, for instance, that Tacoma is one giant wetland? It filters the water that ends up in the Puget Sound.
But in our cities & towns:

We've paved and sealed a lot of that permeable ground.

This means that the rainwater has to travel down paved roads...

...until it finds an opening.

I miss the good ol' days when there wasn't traffic.

Hey.
— picking up unwelcome tag-alongs on the way.

The various faces of toxic pollution

- Oil
- Asbestos (worn brake lining)
- Zinc & Copper (tires) (brake pads)
- Soap (washing cars)
After journeying through drains, rainwater carrying toxic pollution reaches the Puget Sound...

...and when orcas eat salmon, these toxins build up in their body and harm their health.

Where it gets taken up by fish, including salmon...
SO WHAT CAN WE DO?

A LOT, STARTING WITH DRIVING ALONE LESS OFTEN AND RIDING TRANSIT!

✓ ALSO, WAY MORE FUN
✓ CAN DO THINGS LIKE READING BOOKS
✓ DRIVING IN BUMPER-TO-BUMPER TRAFFIC IS AWFUL

EVERY TIME YOU DRIVE, YOU SHED THESE TOXIC PARTICLES ONTO THE ROAD.

AND THE MORE YOU DRIVE, THE MORE ROADS WE MAKE.
Together, we can make a difference for the health of our community & our shared waters when we make better transportation choices!

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