Transportation Choices Coalition had a lot of great successes in 2012! 2012 was a year of big connections for TCC. We worked hard to deepen our connections with the health community, and the result was two great partnerships that you can read more about in this annual report. We also worked to connect communities with each other by passing legislation (with unanimous support by the House and Senate) to allow neighbors to rent their cars to one another, a policy phenomenon now known as peer-to-peer carsharing. We can still get wonky when we want to!

In this report you’ll see new staff faces, new board members, and an introduction to some of our new programs. While we have featured our newest programs – Coalition for Active Transportation and Books on the Bus – we’re very proud of ALL of our work in 2012. We know that although the challenges ahead of us are great, particularly as transit agencies around the state are reducing or eliminating service, we face those challenges as a stronger and more effective organization.

Thank you for your support!

Barbara Wright
Board President
Rob Johnson
Executive Director
WHAT WE DO

OUR WORK IS TO DEFINE A FUTURE for Washington that offers real transportation choices to connect people with jobs, housing, communities, and each other.

TRANSPORTATION AFFECTS EVERYONE IN WASHINGTON
- 52% of climate change emissions in our state come from transportation
- 1 in 3 Washingtonians do not get enough physical activity
- Time wasted stuck in traffic costs Americans $1.5 billion every year

Transportation Choices is the only organization that brings together different interests from across the state to work toward a common goal. We are active participants in both grassroots efforts and high-level decision-making processes.

We work with legislators in Olympia to make transit a priority for our state.
We help cities and towns find creative ways to build and maintain sidewalks and bike lanes.
We support citizens and community groups who want to build the transportation connections that make their communities work.

FOR EVERY $1.50 OUR MEMBERS INVEST, WE HELP PROVIDE $25,000 IN TRANSIT, BICYCLE AND PEDESTRIAN INVESTMENTS

WHAT’S NEXT

IN 2013, TRANSIT SERVICE IN WASHINGTON STATE FACES ITS GREATEST UNCERTAINTY.
The Washington State Senate Republicans and its Majority Coalition Caucus chose to put politics ahead of our state’s future. They refused to authorize a new, more sustainable revenue source during legislative session to save transit service. Without new funding, transit agencies such as King County Metro face drastic service cuts impacting 70 percent of riders.

Legislators are discussing the possibility of a transportation-focused special session in November. If this happens, we will be engaged in the discussion, with the goal of maximizing investments for transit, safe streets, and toxic runoff reduction. If the legislature again fails to find a solution for transit, we will look elsewhere for a solution.

We will work with the King County Council to put a transit ballot measure — using existing county taxing authority — before voters. And, we will continue to actively pursue any and all options to save transit.

At a time when there is more demand (and need) for public transportation than at any time in our state’s history, we will not sit by and watch service drastically cut simply because the state legislature has failed to do its job.

OUR MISSION

TCC IS WORKING TO BRING WASHINGTONIANS MORE AND BETTER TRANSPORTATION CHOICES – REAL OPPORTUNITIES TO TAKE A BUS, CATCH A TRAIN, RIDE A BIKE, OR WALK

OUR MEMBERS

OUR MEMBERS COME FROM COMMUNITIES ACROSS THE STATE CYCLISTS, TRANSIT RIDERS, RAIL SUPPORTERS, ACTIVISTS ENVIRONMENTALISTS, PLANNERS, STATE AND CITY LEADERS

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Residents of Pierce County would like to be able to safely walk or bicycle to destinations that are close to home. Decreasing car traffic improves congestion, decreases emissions, and increases physical activity. This results in improved health for people and the environment.”

Jane Moore
President
Coalition for Active Transportation

I love the idea of creating community among bus riders. For many of us who ride, bus time is quality reading time, and I love it when it also creates opportunities to make a connection with a fellow rider.”

Amy Shumann
Books on the Bus participant and Transportation Choices Member

TRANSPORTATION CHOICES COALITION HAS BEGUN A MULTI-YEAR PARTNERSHIP WITH THE COALITION FOR ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION AND TACOMA-PIERCE COUNTY PUBLIC HEALTH TO PROVIDE TECHNICAL EXPERTISE, COMMUNITY OUTREACH, AND EDUCATION TO ENSURE STREETS IN PIERCE COUNTY ARE SAFE FOR EVERYONE TO WALK AND BIKE.

BOOKS ON THE BUS IS A NEW TCC BOOK CLUB FOR BUS AND TRAIN RIDERS, DESIGNED TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION’S INHERENT STRENGTHS: TIME TO READ AND IMMERSION IN A UNIQUE, TEMPORARY, AND VERY DIVERSE COMMUNITY. LEARN MORE AT TRANSPORTATIONCHOICES.ORG/BOOKS.
I would never have normally considered transportation as a 'need,' but Transportation Choices’ presentation of the [issue] has raised my awareness of its importance. And I love seeing the connections and partnerships that Transportation Choices creates; it assures me that every minute of my own volunteer effort towards better transportation is expanded at an exponential rate.”

Mary LaFleur | LaFleur Studios
Transportation Choices Volunteer

We have a responsibility to build a transportation system that generates local prosperity, promotes wellness, and provides access to all in our community. Transportation Choices Coalition has been a strong advocate of helping our state to achieve this goal of a responsible transportation system.”

Senator Andy Billig
3rd Legislative District (Spokane)

Senator Billig showed leadership on a number of key transportation issues during the 2012 legislative session. He introduced the health and transportation bill, which would have added health to WSDOT’s five project goals, and was instrumental in passing a fee bill that directed state funds to public transit for the first time since 2000.
Rob Johnson | Executive Director | After stints in transportation planning in DC and LA, Rob moved back home to Seattle to work at Transportation Choices. Currently on his third title at TCC, Rob is in charge of fundraising, strategic direction, and running the day to day operations of TCC. Though basketball is a passion, there was never much danger of losing Rob to the NBA. Instead he spends his time working with the board and staff to increase the depth and breadth of TCC’s work. Rob lives with his wife Kate and daughters Eden, Margaret and Hannah in Seattle.

Dana Brown | Accountant | “Yes it is a world” Dana lives nestled within a hardwood forest that nestled them home, Dana and her husband are the curators of the land, for, and feathers that made with them. In the midst of loving this place, Dana trends after TCC’s financial records with the same care and attention she gives to her life. Dana brings with her a deep background in the Puget Sound nonprofit world and has been TCC’s accountant for nearly eight years.

Carla DeVick | Policy Director | Carla leads our Policy and Legislative Programs. It’s a tough job advocating for anything in Olympia three days, but each has the chops, she’s a graduate of the University of Washington’s Evans School for Public Administration and a veteran advocate for energy and the environment. She also has the passion. Carla lives getting around the region by bike and transit and even rides public transportation when she travels: “Transit is a great way to get to know a place. You get to experience the neighborhoods, the real people who live there, and see how they treat you and each other.”

Shefali Ranganathan | Director of Programs | First, a little secret... “When I first met my husband, Murari, he had a silver Mustang, a convertible. He drove it everywhere. Love has its price – nowadays the Mustang gathers dust. Just as she has done for individuals all over the state, Shefali showed Mustang Murari how leaving the car at home can free you up, socially and economically. As the Director of Programs, she coordinates our education work and helps build coalitions with communities who depend on transit. Shefali loves traveling and enjoys trying out transit systems with her husband around the world.

Carla Souther | Membership Manager | Carla is responsible for growing and cultivating our membership base. A long time TCC member, she is responsible for growing and cultivating our membership base. The author of the blog Fish Chick, Transit Authority, Carla brings some of her enthusiasm for all things transit to TCC. She admits to an obsession with what she calls “transit culture” and believes that getting people out of their cars is not about convincing them why they should; it’s about showing them why they want to. “There’s plenty of propaganda promoting cars as the best way to get around. Those of us who ride buses and trains regularly know what everyone else is missing.”

Kate Whiting | Field Director | Kate joined the TCC team at the end of 2012. She brings seven years of experience in grassroots development, campaign management, volunteer coordination, and coalition building to the organization. Kate has worked on political campaigns – both large and small – throughout Washington State, and loves nothing more than working with dedicated volunteers.

CITY OF TACOMA

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OUR WORK BRINGS RESULTS. We can turn a handful of quarters into tens of thousands of dollars in transportation investment: buses, trains, sidewalks, bike lanes, and safer roads. MORE transportation CHOICES mean MORE TIME for yourself and your family, MORE MONEY in your pocket, and a cleaner environment.

We are working hard to preserve Washington's economic, environmental, and social health, but we can't do it without you. Renew your membership today to ensure that our state continues to give transportation choices the priority they deserve.

GET ON BOARD!

WHERE ARE WE HEADED? IT’S UP TO YOU!