

Dear Seattle City Council,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the budget process. As the City looks to rebuild its transportation program, in the wake of both I-976 and the COVID pandemic, Transportation Choices Coalition supports centering racial equity in planning and programming; prioritizing transit and active transportation as a component of overall economic recovery; and engaging with potential long-term funding solutions. We agree with many of our partner organizations that recovery will require increased investment, rather than across-the-board cuts; and that we must work together to develop new, sustainable, progressive funding sources.

With that approach in mind, we support the following:

- **Fully funding the Transportation Equity Workgroup.** This workgroup, after years of planning, is now trained up and running, contributing to true structural change at SDOT. Now is not the time to walk away from support for this workgroup. We are pleased to see the Mayor's budget include funding for the work to continue, and encourage the City to continue to fully fund it.
- **Divesting/investing policing resources into other departments where appropriate.**
 - We strongly support the proposed 20201 budget transfers \$15.8M of General Fund & 123 FTE to SDOT for Parking Enforcement.
 - We encourage funding to support planning and implementation of further changes to reduce police presence in transportation and reduce harmful effects of enforcement, such as:
 - Removing police from routine traffic stops
 - Alternative resolutions to citations / income-based fines
 - Additional reporting and transparency on racial stops and ticketing data
 - While the budget contains FTEs for block the box police, as required per state statute, we strongly oppose increasing funding for uniformed police and wish to work with the City to expand who can lawfully review automated enforcement photos.
- **Prioritize equity; Maintaining commitments to transit projects.**
 - As you explore budget reductions for projects, decisions about what to pause/cancel/unpause should be made with a strong emphasis on racial and social equity, rather than geography, to help balance out the disproportionate devastation and need that COVID has exacerbated in Seattle.
 - For example, we are concerned about cuts to sidewalk work related to Route 7 through the Rainier Valley, one of the most dangerous arterials in the city.
 - We urge the City to maintain commitments of TNC funding for transit, housing, and workers. Earmarked funds should support original projects, while maintaining support for BIPOC priorities.
- **Exploring all potential new revenue sources.**
 - Ensure staff are adequately resourced to develop a plan for equitable new revenue sources for transit, active transportation and GHG reduction related to transportation.
 - New funding sources should be designed to be progressive and sustainable.

- Congestion pricing remains a promising new revenue source. We strongly support funding for continued outreach, engagement, and policy development work (workshops, resourcing groups, staff).

Sincerely,

Transportation Choices Coalition