

Washington State House of Representatives  
P.O. Box 40600  
Olympia, WA 98504

Washington Senate  
P.O. Box 40403  
Olympia, WA 98504

February 2, 2022

Dear Washington State Legislators,

Washington State spends billions of dollars each year on transportation. These projects directly impact our health, climate, and livelihoods, and social and economic justice for people across Washington. But right now, Washington is investing in transportation strategies from 50 years ago – and with climate catastrophe on the horizon, we can't afford more years of status quo.

The Washington State Legislature is long overdue to pass a transportation package — but we don't need just any kind of investments. We need a transformative approach to transportation that meets our communities needs for health, safety, and affordability, and addresses climate, social, and economic justice.

We, the undersigned organizations, are writing to ask you to pass a transportation package that deeply invests in transit service and operations, and which significantly funds biking and pedestrian infrastructure. A package should take a fix-it-first approach to existing infrastructure, accelerate de-carbonization of the transportation sector through electrification, and invest in a healthy watershed and salmon habitat. Legislators should also find new, progressive revenue sources that disincentivize carbon emissions.

2022 brings a critical opportunity for the State Legislature to boldly invest in vital service and infrastructure. Accelerated by the Federal Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act and \$5.2 billion from the Climate Commitment Act, the stage is set for a transportation package that is desperately needed by all Washingtonians.

In 2020 Washington's transit agencies delivered 110 million passenger trips. That's more than the ferries and airports combined. Yet transit agencies have been chronically underfunded, and only four percent of State appropriations goes to transit. The Joint Transportation Committee has identified a need of up to \$24 billion for service, capital, and more for bus and rail over the next 10 years. The result is transit riders across Washington cannot count on a baseline of transit service, and face significant mobility barriers. Since local jurisdictions and transit agencies in Washington depend largely on regressive and volatile sales tax, direct state funding can help bolster agencies, reduce inequities, and provide consistency by delivering a

sustainable baseline level of service. A direct investment in service will chart a path forward for reliable transit for all.

One of the important ways to meet the State's adopted climate goals is to deeply reduce vehicle miles traveled and electrify essentially all of the remaining trips. The only feasible way to accomplish this is deeply investing in multimodal transportation options, specifically transit operations that create real alternatives for Washingtonians. Climate Commitment Act funds are intended to reduce carbon emissions and we know that public transit and multimodal options are a critical piece of doing that.

Transportation is a cornerstone of meeting so many community needs. From economic opportunity, to correcting for historically excluded communities, to tackling climate change, it all #TakesTransportation. The legislature has an opportunity right now to provide this critical funding. A transportation package that invests in critical infrastructure and operations is desperately needed this year.

We are grateful for the time you are spending on this important issue, and we look forward to working with you to bring this work across the finish line.

In partnership,



Alliance for a Just Society  
Asian Counseling & Referral Services  
Climate Solutions  
Downtown On the Go!  
Feet First  
FMS Global Strategies/Washington Build-Back Black Alliance  
Forevergreen Trails Coalition  
FUSE Washington  
Futurewise  
LID I-5  
Move Redmond  
NW Energy Coalition  
Seattle Parks Foundation  
Seattle Subway  
Snoqualmie Valley Transportation  
Sustainable Tri-Cities  
Tacoma Pierce County Health Department  
Tacoma Washington Bicycle Club  
The Nature Conservancy  
The Wilderness Society  
Transportation Choices Coalition  
Washington Environmental Council/Washington Conservation Voters  
Washington Pediatricians for Climate Action