

# Youth Perspectives on Transit

Transportation Choices spoke with 103 young people in 16 focus groups to better understand their perspectives on transit. Participants identified strengths of public transit and current challenges to using transit. Based on these findings, Transportation Choices issued the recommendations below.

## Strengths

- Environmental impact
- Increased independence
- Enhanced equity
- Connections with operators

## Challenges

- Insufficient infrastructure and service
- Negative stigma
- Difficulties navigating the system and lack of rider education
- Safety concerns and discomfort
- Unreliable real-time information

“I feel when there isn't that trash it feels a lot more like someone's actually been taking care of the space and when a space is taken care of it makes you feel like if something were to happen then you would be taken care of too.” (Aurora, 14, Seattle)

## Recommendations

- Establish youth ambassador programs
- Offer more educational materials and instructional programming for youth
- Establish more frequent and reliable service
- Create a more reliable system for tracking real-time information
- Enhance cleanliness and sanitation on buses and at transit stops
- Recruit and retain civilian transit security personnel with specific training in de-escalation tactics and in supporting young riders
- Broader upstream investments in social services and partnerships

To read the full report go to [transportationchoices.org/youth-transit](https://transportationchoices.org/youth-transit)