

Legislative Agenda 2026

Helping *all* Washingtonians safely and reliably get where they need to go

Our Top Priorities for Legislators in 2026:

Transportation  Choices

Enact a “fix it first” approach



The State Department of Transportation estimates a nearly \$1 billion annual shortfall for maintenance and preservation, resulting in an \$8 billion backlog of needed road and bridge repairs. Yet of the \$11.8 billion budget approved for WSDOT last year, 36% went to highway capacity expansions, with no new maintenance investments until 2027. We must preserve the system Washingtonians rely on. This protects past taxpayer investments, supports thousands of jobs, and prevents the far higher costs of deferred repairs.

Advance a statewide Megaproject for Safety



Last year, lawmakers approved \$100 million starting in 2027 to improve safety on state-owned highways — what we’re calling a Megaproject for Safety. State-owned Main Street highways remain some of the most dangerous roads in our cities and towns, putting at risk the people who walk, bike, drive, and ride transit on them every day. We need a dedicated program and funding strategy to fix them. This year, legislators should adopt a proviso directing WSDOT to develop a comprehensive plan for how current and future funds will be used.

Align regional transportation planning for a low-carbon future



Washington’s climate laws require cutting pollution and reaching net-zero emissions by 2050, but regional transportation plans don’t yet reflect those goals. As Washington grows, transportation planning should prioritize climate-friendly options like transit, walking, and biking. Updating regional planning rules to require reductions in greenhouse gas emissions and vehicle miles traveled would help ensure future transportation investments align with our state’s climate, affordability, and quality-of-life goals.

Fund and expand Washington’s Intercity Bus Program



Many rural Washingtonians, especially seniors and people with disabilities, depend on the Travel Washington Intercity Bus Program to reach jobs, services, and healthcare. Last year, the legislature approved \$5 million for the program, for increased frequencies and a new Spokane to Pasco line. But these improvements, along with two other pilot routes, rely on temporary funds that expire in the 2025–27 biennium. To maintain and grow the network statewide, WSDOT needs at least \$10 million per biennium in ongoing funding.



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Design an equitable Road Usage Charge



With gas-tax revenue shrinking, Washington needs a modern, fair, and long-term funding source for transportation. A well-designed road usage charge should fund road maintenance, as well as sidewalks, bike lanes, and transit. This will reduce greenhouse gas emissions, vehicle miles traveled, and air pollution, while promoting safe, equitable mobility for all. Any road usage charge framework should also include strong protections for tribal communities.



Build light rail faster for riders



Voters overwhelmingly approved and taxpayers have been diligently paying for light rail. The Puget Sound region needed these projects yesterday. We must deliver light rail projects faster. Extending the bonding authority to 75 years to match peer agencies, would give Sound Transit the flexibility to deliver Sound Transit 3 projects sooner.

TCC also supports:



Restoring funding for Regional Mobility Grants to meet transit agencies' capital and operations needs. This funding is currently not budgeted beyond 2027.



Expanding the Commute Trip Reduction law to be more inclusive of businesses with employees who work shifts, overnight, or are part-time or limited-term employees.



Implementing a safe systems approach bill that requires roads and transit projects to be designed for safer walking, biking, and driving.



Advancing road safety bills such as lower DUI limits, to protect the most vulnerable road users like people walking, biking, rolling, and accessing transit.



Streamlining permitting in an equitable and efficient way to bring transit, walking, and biking projects to life faster.



Defending Washington's Climate Commitment Act to ensure this funding continues to be invested in programs that make it easier to walk, bike, and take transit and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

Track our legislative priorities at transportationchoices.org/policy



Transportation Choices Coalition advocates for safe, sustainable, and equitable transportation for all residents in Washington State. For over 30 years, it has brought together businesses, labor, transit agencies, transit riders, and elected leaders to win transformative policies and funding.

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