

YOUTH CLIMATE & TRANSPORTATION ACTION PLAN



INTRODUCTION

On December 9, 2023, 60 young people attended the first-ever Youth Transportation Summit hosted by the City of Seattle, King County Metro, and Sound Transit. The Summit was planned in response to Mayor Harrell's 2022 Climate Justice Executive Order. Approximately 60 youth and young adults ages 14-24 attended the Summit to discuss the urgent issues impacting climate justice and transportation access in Seattle. They created and voted on a list of recommendations to address these pressing concerns. Nine Summit participants were selected to further clarify and organize the recommendations voted on at the Summit.

YOUTH CLIMATE & TRANSPORTATION ACTION PLAN

60 young people participated in the creation of the following Youth Climate & Transportation Action Plan. While the group acknowledges there are many urgent issues to address, the following list represents the issues with consistent youth consensus for the City of Seattle and partner agencies to prioritize. Tangible action items listed under each recommendation are listed in order of the level of support shown by youth at the Summit. All of the following recommendations will directly impact the City of Seattle's Climate Impact goals and should be addressed through a racial equity lens, prioritizing the experiences of Black and Indigenous People of Color (BIPOC) Seattleites and communities who have historically been excluded from Government conversations and partnerships.



RECOMMENDATION #1

Repurpose Existing Infrastructure to Enhance and Encourage Bicycling and Walking

Goal: Decrease single-occupancy vehicle (SOV) use and improve sense of connection to community.

- i. Connect bike lane infrastructure to create a City-wide bike lane network and protect bike lanes with physical barriers.
- ii. Increase bike and pedestrian throughway access by transitioning four-lane roads to include protected bicycle and pedestrian lanes.
- iii. Transition high density areas to car-free pedestrian zones. Priority areas include: Pike Place, Alaska Junction, and Capitol Hill.
- iv. Reclaim physical infrastructures such as parking lots and garages for communities (ie, green space, bike parking, community spaces, restaurant seating).
- v. Provide more and safer bicycle parking as well as increase access to bike safety and anti-theft equipment.



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RECOMMENDATION #2

Develop Meaningful Partnerships and Relationships with Community Through Increased Transportation Education and Engagement

Goal: Create a positive culture around stewardship and transit use to shift travel behavior and increase transit ridership.

- i. Create more volunteer and paid internship opportunities with Government agencies, especially for BIPOC youth.
- ii. Design and lead more positive brand management and marketing for transportation options outside of driving.
- iii. Establish a community “Adopt A Stop” program for streetcar and bus stops or busy intersections that can promote adding native plants, rain gardens, and green space.
- iv. Form an inclusive transportation committee with disability representation to more equitably address the City’s transportation access issues.



RECOMMENDATION #3

Increase Investments in Safety to Make Navigating Seattle More Accessible by Using Public Transit

Goal: Increase public transit use and reduce SOV use; Increase green space and use of public space around transit rich areas.

- i. Increase the number of covers at bus shelters and add increased lighting and seating options at shelters.
- ii. Increase the amount of bus only lanes, specifically targeting high volume arterial streets.
- iii. Provide additional health protection measures on transit, including the offering of wet wipes and gloves, as well as improved ventilation systems.

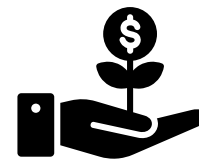


RECOMMENDATION #4

Engage Transit Riders from a Younger Age and Modify Transit Service to Meet the Needs of Young People

Goal: Increase youth ridership and engagement in public transit and reduce SOV reliance for future generations.

- i. Develop deeper relationships between transportation agencies and schools to integrate transit education and curriculum into Middle Schools.
- ii. Conduct a survey of young people to better understand how transit stops and routes can be improved to better serve the unique needs of youth and young people.
- iii. Adjust transit service frequency to every 5-10 minutes before and after school on peak routes near schools.
- iv. Support and promote a Free Youth Transit Pass campaign, including in-person outreach to distribute ORCA cards.
- v. Establish an annual event with the Mayor and quarterly meetings with their team to meet with youth representatives from different schools to discuss youth transportation needs.



RECOMMENDATION #5

Invest in Regional Transit Service Improvements

Goal: Increase public transit use and reduce single-occupancy vehicle (SOV) use.

- i. Increase the number of public transit routes and transportation options around Seattle hills and transit deserts, including the reinstalment of the waterfront streetcar.
- ii. Fund more frequent 1-line Link Light Rail service and expand hours of operation.
- iii. Expand Night Owl bus service options, including number of routes and frequency.
- iv. Provide additional training and support for transit operators to improve arrival reliability.
- v. Address car-centric approach to Seattle’s infrastructure by adding a lid to I-5 and creating a tax on large trucks and SUVs.
- vi. Increase opportunities for dense mixed-use zoning, especially around transit hubs.