



### **SYC Transportation Committee end-of-the-year report**

Transportation is not necessarily the first thing you think of when dealing with youth issues, but we get a large number of comments from students regarding the issue. We have tried to improve the transportation system for students in two ways: improving services and increasing access to reliable information. These are both big priorities for us as young people are highly dependent on transit.

- **Transit information in schools:** Over the course of the year, we have worked on various projects to give students easy access to schedules and maps within school. Our biggest problem has been creating a system that is self-sustainable, and doesn't require constant upkeep on the part of the commission. We first posted bus schedules and transit alerts on panels near the doors at Ballard High School to give students information about their commute before they left school, but were unable to find a way to make sure they were constantly updated after we graduated. We eventually created brochures that explain the transit system to each school and provide sources for further information. We are adding these to school websites, and getting them to schools for their freshman information sessions and packets.
- **Real-time arrival at Central:** We've been working to get a kiosk at Seattle Central Community College. This will be accessible to many of the running start high school students who commute from all over the city.
- **Schedule fixes:** Students have often complained about bus schedules that don't align properly or overcrowded buses to and from school. We found an error in Metro's schedules that was causing some of these problems at Ballard. Metro was running extra service on route 15 in accordance with last year's bell schedules. In the process of fixing this error we found that there was no mechanism whereby Seattle Public Schools was telling Metro about its future bell schedules early enough for Metro to change its schedules accordingly. Seattle Public Schools from now on finalizes school start and end times by May 26<sup>th</sup>. This gives Metro sufficient time to adjust schedules for the June service change and make sure bus arrival times align with school start times.
- **Lobbying for Delridge West Seattle Connection:** In an effort to make transit work as well as it can for youth, we've lobbied to solve one of the biggest hiccups in West Seattle service, the lack of a bus that connects the upper Admiral area with Delridge. As part of the largest service change in Metro's history, the route 50 will start providing service between Delridge and Admiral. This will help kids who live in Delridge move to and from school without having to transfer farther south, or even in downtown.

We plan to build on some of these projects in the future, and start work on new project. We are looking at how to make Metro's transit alerts system easier to sign up for. We are also trying to improve accessibility to Orca Cards for young people. Currently, only students living outside of a two mile radius from their schools have access to cards and the process for those living closer than 2 miles to obtain them is confusing. Misplaced or damaged cards are inconvenient to replace. Our goal is to integrate a system of card purchase with school websites.

We have attached some of our transit information brochures long with this document.