



City Neighborhood Council

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DISTRICT COUNCILS:

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February 8, 2013

To Seattle Members of the 63rd Washington State Legislature

Subject: **Funding for Public Transit**

Pierce Transit is facing crisis cuts in bus service now, and King County Metro will next year, without new funding solutions from the state, despite the increasing demand for public transit. The Seattle City Neighborhood Council urges action this year to authorize a wider variety of local option fees and to provide direct assistance. The need is for both short and long term solutions, more ample and stable funding sources, to strengthen both economy and equity.

Bipartisan agreement on transportation funding may be possible this year: The Washington State Transportation Commission recently reported that current fuel taxes will not even allow us to maintain our road system, much less upgrade our transit, ferry, bike, or pedestrian facilities.

Traditional funding sources such as vehicle value, license, or fuel fees need to be made more usable for transit. Innovative ideas such as development impact fees, carbon pricing, vehicle mileage fees, and tolls need to be studied and tested. Ideally all fees would address the costs of congestion, pollution, construction, or maintenance, while taking into account ability to pay.

The City Neighborhood Council, which represents community groups across all of Seattle's legislative districts, urges you to act on transit funding this year to benefit communities statewide.

Sincerely yours,

Philip Shack
Chair, Seattle City Neighborhood Council
<http://www.seattle.gov/neighborhoodcouncil/>

CC: Seattle City Council and Mayor Mike McGinn
CC: King County Council and Executive Dow Constantine.