



City Neighborhood Council

c/o 700 Fifth Ave, Suite 1700, PO Box 94649, Seattle WA 98124-4649

Telephone: (206) 684-0719 Fax: (206) 233-5142 TDD: (206) 684-0446

DISTRICT COUNCILS:

- Ballard
- Central
- Delridge Neighborhoods
- Downtown
- East
- Greater Duwamish
- Lake Union
- Magnolia/Queen Anne
- North
- Northeast
- Northwest
- Southeast
- Southwest

May 28, 2008

Seattle Area - COUNCILMEMBERS

King County Courthouse
516 Third Avenue, Room 1200
Seattle, WA 98104-3272

Dear Councilmember:

For the past decade, new transit service dollars from the County's transit sales tax have gone 80 percent to suburban areas (40 percent to south King County and 40 percent to north King County), with only 20 percent going to service within the City of Seattle. This is despite Seattle having the most transit ridership, and despite the fact that each dollar spent on Seattle service produces far more ridership increase than in the suburbs.

As a group, Seattleites not only ride the bus more than do suburbanites; they also vote more consistently for transit funding ballot measures. Yet many of Seattle's Metro bus riders must stand in the aisles, or stand in the wind and rain at poorly sheltered bus stops as packed buses pass them by. This while buses are near-empty on many routes in suburban and exurban King County.

As a proportion of King County's greenhouse gas production, motor vehicle emissions are about 50 percent and growing. With the new state law passed in March requiring reductions in vehicle miles traveled, the County can no longer afford to distribute its new transit dollars without regard to where they will do the most to reduce driving. It also cannot continue to give lowest priority in new transit funding to improving mobility and livability in our established cities.

Please work to change the 20:40:40 ratio for distributing new service dollars into a more equitable ratio (for example, 33:33:33), with Seattle receiving at least as large a share as the North and South county areas.

The City Neighborhood Council is the citywide voice of the thirteen district councils, which like CNC are official Seattle advisory bodies. After being circulated for discussion by the district councils, this letter was approved at the April 28 CNC meeting without opposition. While we rarely address letters to the King County Council, this issue is of such importance to Seattle neighborhoods that you should hear from us directly.

Sincerely,

Christopher K. Leman, Chair
(206) 322-5463 cleman@oo.net
cc: Seattle Mayor and City Council