



School Traffic Safety Committee

January 25, 2024

To: The Washington State House of Representatives, Transportation Committee
The Washington State Senate, Transportation Committee

We are writing to express support for Senate Bill 5873 concerning providing adequate and predictable student transportation. This bill would help in traffic safety for students and families, and we encourage that it get voted into law.

The Seattle School Traffic Safety Committee is a City commission that brings together representatives from Seattle Public Schools, SDOT, King County Metro, Seattle Police Department, and volunteers to connect the pieces of the mosaic of entities involved in creating and providing safe routes to school. This letter is on behalf of the volunteer members.

We applaud this bill's recognition that many school districts do not receive adequate funding for student transportation under the current formula, which particularly underfunds transportation costs for the neediest students. Support for the distinct passenger categories is critical to maximizing these students' access to consistent education and opportunities to achieve.

In addition to the language proposed here, which we encourage you to make law, we encourage you to pass a budget that makes the current funding complete with specific funding gaps for the walk zone components, such as crossing guards.

Please pass these bills and help get our students to school funded by transportation dollars rather than general ed!

Sincerely,

Margaret McCauley

Mary Ellen Russell