



## 2010-2011 Seattle Youth Commission year-end report: Transportation

When you think of issues facing youth, transportation (or in our case specifically transit) isn't the first thing that comes to mind, but it is relevant to youth in this city. Youth are a transit dependent demographic. If we are to be more integrated with normal society, we have to get around. Most of us need good transit to do this easily. Youth are also those people in society that will be most affected by climate change, and if we want to deal with climate change, we need a functioning transit system. Below are some of the things we have done/are working on in the Transportation Committee:

- Recommended a graduated system for Orca card fines:
  - When the region's transit agencies switched to the ORCA smart card, it created unexpected collateral costs for our school districts. Each card costs the district \$5. With over 10,000 high school students alone needing to keep the same card for 4 years, the district has had to replace a lot of cards. In order to deal with this, we recommended that SPS increase the fine incrementally each time a student loses their card. This way, students who lose it once aren't punished for a simple mistake, while those who are doing so constantly are encouraged to find a way for stop.
- Working with metro to better align bus schedules with school start times, and better allocate capacity for late start/early release days:
  - Many students have complained about city bus schedules making it tougher for them to get to school on time. Buses with every ½ hour frequency are timed in some place to come 5 minutes after school, and 25 minutes before, while other students have told us of places where they are left behind on early release or late start days because the bus they are supposed to take is full. We are working with King County Metro and Seattle Public Schools so that metro will be aware of when schools start and end, and when they have early release and late start days to make it easier to get to school on time.
- Working with SDOT on traffic calming program on Ravenna Ave near Nathan Hale:
  - Ravenna Ave is one of the main arterials for Nathan Hale and the Jane Adams building. It carries a large number of pedestrians, cyclists, and drivers, but also has a speeding problem. We have brought this issue up with SDOT, and are working to reduce speeds on the road.
- Increasing student voice in transportation planning:
  - We have worked with local transportation agencies to make sure that we are given advance notice when any board or commissions are looking for new members. As part of our outreach efforts amongst Seattle youth, we will work to increase the number of students on regional transportation boards and commissions.
- Adding transit system maps and bus schedules to schools
  - In order to make it easier for students to get around the city on public transit, we are working with local high schools and King County Metro to install transit system maps and bus schedules around the entrances of Seattle high schools. One of our commissioners is also working on a real time arrival display software, which could possibly allow us to add real time arrival information in high schools.