

Resolution in Support of ORCA (pass) for All

WHEREAS the crisis of climate change demands urgent action, including a rapid shift to low-carbon modes of transportation, especially public transit; and

WHEREAS over half of Seattle commute trips are comprised of single-occupancy-vehicles (SOV), including a quarter of commute trips into downtown, the most congested area of the city; and

WHEREAS employer-provided transit benefits are an effective incentive that shifts the commute habits of workers', thereby lowering transportation costs for workers who use public transit; and

WHEREAS low-income workers typically aren't provided subsidized transit passes; and

WHEREAS low-income workers are the most likely demographic to utilize public transit¹; and

WHEREAS fares only account for 6.7% of the total revenue King County Transit agencies receive²; and

WHEREAS the Transit Riders Union is planning a campaign to increase the employer provision of transit benefits in Seattle and King County,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED the 46th Legislative District Democrats, declares their endorsement of the Transit Riders Union campaign to increase employer provisions of transit benefits for low-income workers and approves our name and logo to be displayed in a list of signatories to their mission statement.

THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED we call on Seattle City Council, Kenmore City Council, Lake Forest Park City Council, and King County Council to investigate their ability to create or expand funding Orca passes for low-income residents.

Submitted by Hunter Brown, PCO 46-2252, originated by Transit Riders Union, for consideration by the 46th District Democrats. Date of submission: September 18, 2019.

Sources:

1. <https://www.pewresearch.org/fact-tank/2016/04/07/who-relies-on-public-transit-in-the-u-s/>
2. <https://www.seattletimes.com/seattle-news/transportation/where-is-your-king-county-transportation-money-going-and-what-is-it-costing-you-these-are-the-numbers/>