

1/27/2022 Board of Directors Meeting
Written Public Comment Submissions

Submissions

Cascade Bicycle Club, Disability Mobility Initiative, Disability Rights Washington, Downtown on the Go, Move Redmond, Northwest Immigrant Rights Project, Real Change, Transit Riders Union, and Transportation Choices Coalition 2

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Cascade Bicycle Club, Disability Mobility Initiative, Disability Rights Washington, Downtown on the Go, Move Redmond, Northwest Immigrant Rights Project, Real Change, Transit Riders Union, and Transportation Choices Coalition

The substance of this comment is within a letter included at the end of this document.

Dear Sound Transit Board members and leadership,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on updates to the fare compliance policy. Please find attached a joint comment letter from **Cascade Bicycle Club, Disability Mobility Initiative, Disability Rights Washington, Downtown On the Go, Move Redmond, Northwest Immigrant Rights Project, Real Change, Transit Riders Union, and Transportation Choices Coalition** reiterating support for solutions that truly increase transit access for all potential riders, and end harmful and disproportionate punitive impacts to communities of color and riders experiencing homelessness.

I have also attached a joint letter sent in nearly two years ago on the same topic, when more than 40 organizations weighed in asking for a less punitive approach to fares. The context may have changed, but the desire for an equitable policy remains relevant.

Thank you,

Hester

Hester Serebrin (she/her)
Policy Director

Transportation Choices
1402 3rd Ave #310
Seattle, WA 98101

Joyce Hengesbach

The substance of this comment is within a letter included at the end of this document.

We appreciate your forwarding to all Board members and Sound Transit executive staff.

Thank you, Joyce

Joyce Hengesbach
West Seattle SkyLink
www.westseattleskylink.org

Matthew Sutherland

Hello Sound Transit Board members and leadership, My name is [Matthew Sutherland](#) and I am the advocacy director at TCC. thank you for the opportunity to comment on updates to the fare compliance policy - and Please also see the joint comment letter we have submitted today and a similar letter submitted almost two years ago by almost 40 organizations.

While we are in a wildly different place than we were two years ago when this conversation started in earnest – We want to reiterate our support for the same goal for this process: to truly increase transit access for all potential riders, and end harmful and disproportionate punitive impacts to communities of color and riders experiencing homelessness.

We are grateful that Sound Transit pivoted to a Fare Ambassador approach during the pandemic, and we look forward to learning more from this experience.

We urge that any updated policy focuses on connecting people to resources rather than applying punitive measures. Before you vote or take action on a policy, we ask that you ensure it has undergone and reported on a Racial Equity Analysis of the specific proposal, as sound transit has put significant effort into developing these important tools.

While we generally have supported proposals to increase the number of warnings, reduce fines for fare non-payment, increase officer training, and explore special considerations for youth, we urge you to think even further upstream and focus more on holistic equity policies, such as the permanent adoption of the very low-income fare program and more direct ORCA LIFT outreach with riders.

We continue have very deep concerns with any proposal that keeps a citation resolution process within the court or collections system, which goes against the social and racial equity values we are striving to implement

While we know that fare revenue is a concern, especially in light of the financial gap of system expansion, this issue must not be addressed on the backs of riders, many of whom remain essential workers and those taking essential trips. We have been and remain committed to fighting for transit funding and tools at the regional, state, and federal levels.

Thank you!

Respectfully,

Matthew J. Sutherland (he/him)
Advocacy Director

Transportation Choices