

Proclamation

WHEREAS, on average public transit provides more than 100 million passenger trips in Washington each year; and

WHEREAS, Washington's transit provider landscape is vast and varied, including 32 transit agencies (eight serving urban areas, 11 small urban, and 13 rural); 17 tribal transportation providers; more than 20 community transportation providers; six Medicaid transportation brokers; four Travel Washington intercity bus program lines; eight ferry systems; and one Monorail; and

WHEREAS, transit agencies in Washington State invest almost \$5 billion in transit capital and operations each year; and

WHEREAS, Move Ahead Washington, the transformative transportation package passed in 2022, will invest more than \$3 billion in transit programs and projects over 16 years; and

WHEREAS, Move Ahead Washington also established the first-in-the-nation Youth Ride Free program, which provides zero cost fare to more than 1.4 million young people across Washington, reducing a major barrier to transit access; and

WHEREAS, throughout COVID lockdowns, transit agencies continued to provide more than 100 million annual passenger trips for essential workers or essential rides, as well as bringing other services to their communities including delivering meals, groceries and prescriptions to people with disabilities, seniors, people with low incomes and people with special transportation needs in their community; and

WHEREAS, nearly 25 percent of Washingtonians cannot or do not drive and may rely on public transit; and

WHEREAS, recent research from shows that 1 in 4 adults in the United States suffers from transportation insecurity, suggesting millions of Washingtonians can't regularly move from place to place in a safe or timely manner because they lack the resources necessary for transportation; and

WHEREAS, A 2021 study from the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine concluded that the energy saved by passengers in the US using public transit rather than personal vehicles saved 63 million metric tons of carbon dioxide in 2018 — roughly the equivalent of taking 16 coal-fired power plants offline for a year; and

WHEREAS, public transportation investments generate 31 percent more jobs per dollar than new construction of roads and bridges. Investment in transit can yield 49,700 jobs per \$1 billion invested, and offers a 5 to 1 economic return; and

WHEREAS, Greater transit use is associated with higher levels of physical activity, which is associated with lower health risks and better health outcomes; and

WHEREAS, Transit trips are 10 times safer per mile than car trips, and that a person can reduce his or her chance of being in a crash by more than 90 percent simply by taking public transit opposed to commuting by car; and

WHEREAS, Transit provides essential trips and essential jobs for People of color and low-income individuals. Among urban residents, Black, Latinx, and foreign-born community members are more likely to take public transit daily or weekly, compared with whites. During COVID, ridership remained highest on routes that serve communities of color. In American cities, people of color account for a disproportionate share of the 2.8 million essential workers who usually commute on transit. Among frontline transit workers, a greater share are Black or Latinx, or are from low-income households.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Anne McEnery-Ogle, Mayor of Vancouver do hereby proclaim June 2023 as:

"Ride Transit Month"

In the City of Vancouver and encourages the Federal Government, States, localities, schools, nonprofit organizations, businesses, and other applicable entities, along with the people of the United States, to observe Ride Transit Month with appropriate events and activities to promote public transportation.



IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and cause the seal of the City of Vancouver to be affixed this 5th day of June, 2023.


ANNE McENERNY-OGLE, MAYOR