



SEATTLE CITY COUNCIL

Legislative Summary

Res 31911

Record No.: Res 31911

Type: Resolution (Res)

Status: Adopted

Version: 1

Ord. no:

In Control: City Clerk

File Created: 09/25/2019

Final Action: 10/18/2019

Title: A RESOLUTION opposing Washington Initiative Measure 976 ("I-976") and urging Seattle voters to vote "No" on I-976 on the November 5, 2019, general election ballot.

Notes:

Filed with City Clerk: 10/18/2019

Mayor's Signature: 10/17/2019

Sponsors: Juarez

Vetoed by Mayor:

Veto Overridden:

Veto Sustained:

Attachments:

Drafter: Emilia.Sanchez@seattle.gov

Filing Requirements/Dept Action:

History of Legislative File

Legal Notice Published:

Yes

No

Version:	Acting Body:	Date:	Action:	Sent To:	Due Date:	Return Date:	Result:
1	City Clerk	09/26/2019	sent for review	Council President's Office			
	Action Text: The Resolution (Res) was sent for review. to the Council President's Office						
1	Council President's Office	09/26/2019	sent for review	City Council			
	Action Text: The Resolution (Res) was sent for review. to the City Council						
1	City Council	09/30/2019	referred	City Council			
1	City Council	10/07/2019	adopted				Pass
	Action Text: The Motion carried, the Resolution (Res) was adopted by the following vote, and the President signed the Resolution:						
	Notes: Motion was made and duly seconded to adopt Resolution 31911.						

PUBLIC COMMENT ON RESOLUTION 31911

In accordance with the Revised Code of Washington 42.17A.555 and Seattle

Municipal Code 2.04.300, Council President Harrell provided the public an opportunity to speak in favor of or opposition to the ballot measure.

Tim Eyman addressed the Council in opposition to Resolution No. 31911.

Matthew Lang addressed the Council in support of Resolution No. 31911.

Tim Eyman addressed the Council in opposition to Resolution No. 31911.

Matthew Lang addressed the Council in support of Resolution No. 31911.

Public Comment on Resolution 31911 was closed.

In Favor: 7 Councilmember Bagshaw, Council President Harrell, Councilmember Herbold, Councilmember Juarez, Councilmember Mosqueda, Councilmember Pacheco, Councilmember Sawant

Opposed: 0

- | | | | | |
|---|---------------------|------------|--|------------|
| 1 | City Clerk | 10/11/2019 | submitted for
Mayor's signature | Mayor |
| 1 | Mayor | 10/17/2019 | Signed | |
| | Action Text: | | The Resolution (Res) was Signed. | |
| 1 | Mayor | 10/18/2019 | returned | City Clerk |
| 1 | City Clerk | 10/18/2019 | attested by City Clerk | |
| | Action Text: | | The Resolution (Res) was attested by City Clerk. | |
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CITY OF SEATTLE

RESOLUTION 31911

A RESOLUTION opposing Washington Initiative Measure 976 (“I-976”) and urging Seattle voters to vote “No” on I-976 on the November 5, 2019, general election ballot.

WHEREAS, Washington Initiative Measure 976 (hereinafter, “I-976”) would undermine progress made by The City of Seattle, Sound Transit, and the State of Washington in building a more equitable and sustainable transportation system that responds to the challenges posed by the region’s extraordinary growth, an ongoing climate crisis, and past failures to build a mass transit system that could efficiently and cost effectively serve the needs of Seattle in the twenty-first century, by eliminating major funding sources for light rail expansion, bus service in Seattle, and the primary sources of non-highway spending at the state level; and

WHEREAS, I-976 would repeal funding authority for all or substantial portions of transportation benefit districts in Seattle and 61 other cities across Washington State, a sum of \$60 million per year that is largely dedicated to improving safety and maintaining infrastructure and, as in Seattle, to reducing crowding and expanding access to bus service; and

WHEREAS, I-976 is intended to eliminate \$24 million per year in Seattle Transportation Benefit District funding primarily dedicated to additional bus service for Seattle riders that helps alleviate overcrowding; adds more speed and reliability; and provides more all-day, evening, and weekend bus service accessible to more Seattle neighborhoods; and

WHEREAS, Seattle Transit Benefit District-funded expansion of bus service has allowed Seattle to absorb much of its growth via transit rather than additional cars, providing 350,000

1 new annual service hours – the equivalent of 8,000 weekly bus trips or 79 buses running
2 12 hours per day 365 days a year – capacity for 106,032 additional bus rides per day on
3 bus routes serving Seattle, providing ten-minute or better all-day bus service within a ten-
4 minute walk to 70 percent of Seattle households (up from 25 percent in 2015); and

5 WHEREAS, I-976 would also eliminate or reduce funding now dedicated to low-income transit
6 access and ORCA passes to all Seattle public high school students, Seattle Promise
7 Scholars, and income-eligible middle school students; and

8 WHEREAS, I-976 would also eliminate nearly \$8 million per year in funding dedicated to City
9 transportation programs that include pothole repair and neighborhood street maintenance,
10 protected bike lanes, safer pedestrian crossings, frequent transit corridor improvements,
11 and the Seattle Department of Transportation’s program to improve accessibility for
12 people with disabilities; and

13 WHEREAS, I-976 is intended to eliminate \$20 billion in funding for expansion of light rail to
14 West Seattle and Ballard, along with other elements of the 2016 voter-approved Sound
15 Transit 3 measure; and

16 WHEREAS, I-976 would eliminate the primary sources of state funding for safety improvements
17 and non-highway modes of transportation, including passenger rail service connecting
18 Seattle with Portland and Vancouver; \$1.3 billion in ferry vessel improvements;
19 \$15 million per year in Washington State Patrol safety programs; \$50 million per year in
20 regional transit mobility grants; a multitude of freight mobility and highway safety
21 projects; state funding for Safe Routes to Schools and other bike and pedestrian safety
22 investments; and state funding for special needs transit that serves seniors, veterans, and
23 people with disabilities; and

1 WHEREAS, passage of I-976, even if it might eventually be repealed by the courts, could tie up
2 funding for local bus service, light rail expansion, and state programs for several years,
3 grinding to a halt progress on addressing Washington’s growth, safety, equity, climate,
4 and traffic needs, delaying projects and potentially creating financial turmoil for Sound
5 Transit with bond markets; and

6 WHEREAS, Puget Sound residents have voted to tax themselves to address their own
7 transportation needs by building light rail for traffic relief, improving safety and
8 maintenance of the existing right-of-way, and expanding bus access; and

9 WHEREAS, after notice in accordance with RCW 42.17A.555 and Seattle Municipal Code
10 Section 2.04.300, persons in favor of I-976 and those opposed to it have been given an
11 equal opportunity to share their views in an open public meeting; NOW, THEREFORE,

12 **BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SEATTLE, THE**
13 **MAYOR CONCURRING, THAT:**


14 Section 1. The Mayor and Seattle City Council urge Seattle voters to vote “No” on
15 Washington Initiative Measure 976 in the November 2019 general election.

1 Adopted by the City Council the 7th day of October, 2019,
2 and signed by me in open session in authentication of its adoption this 7th day of
3 October, 2019.

4 

5 President _____ of the City Council

6 The Mayor concurred the 17th day of October, 2019.

7 

8 Jenny A. Durkan, Mayor

9 Filed by me this 18th day of OCTOBER, 2019.

10 

11 Monica Martinez Simmons, City Clerk

12 (Seal)