



SEATTLE CITY COUNCIL

Legislative Summary

Res 31773

Record No.: Res 31773

Type: Resolution (Res)

Status: Adopted

Version: 1

Ord. no:

In Control: City Clerk

File Created: 09/05/2017

Final Action: 01/05/2018

Title: A RESOLUTION affirming The City of Seattle's commitment to racial equity and social justice and recognizing the Seattle Department of Transportation's Transportation Equity Program, created to provide safe, environmentally sustainable, accessible, and affordable transportation options that support communities of color, low-income communities, immigrant and refugee communities, people with disabilities, people experiencing homelessness or housing insecurity, LGTBQ people, women and girls, youth, and seniors to thrive in place in vibrant and healthy communities, and eliminate or mitigate racial disparities and the effects of displacement.

Notes:

Filed with City Clerk: 1/5/2018

Mayor's Signature: 1/5/2018

Sponsors: O'Brien

Vetoed by Mayor:

Veto Overridden:

Veto Sustained:

Attachments:

Drafter: Bill.LaBorde@seattle.gov

Filing Requirements/Dept Action:

History of Legislative File

Legal Notice Published: Yes No

Ver- sion:	Acting Body:	Date:	Action:	Sent To:	Due Date:	Return Date:	Result:
1	Mayor	09/15/2017	Mayor's leg transmitted to Council	City Clerk			
	Action Text:		The Resolution (Res) was Mayor's leg transmitted to Council. to the City Clerk				
	Notes:						
1	City Clerk	09/15/2017	sent for review	Council President's Office			
	Action Text:		The Resolution (Res) was sent for review. to the Council President's Office				
	Notes:						

Legislative Summary Continued (Res 31773)

- 1 Council President's Office 09/15/2017 sent for review Sustainability and Transportation Committee
Action Text: The Resolution (Res) was sent for review. to the Sustainability and Transportation Committee
Notes:
- 1 Full Council 09/18/2017 referred Sustainability and Transportation Committee
- 1 Sustainability and Transportation Committee 09/19/2017 discussed
Action Text: The Resolution (Res) was discussed in Committee.
- 1 Sustainability and Transportation Committee 12/08/2017 adopt Pass
Action Text: The Committee recommends that Full Council adopt the Resolution (Res).
Notes:
In Favor: 2 O'Brien, Johnson
Opposed: 0
- 1 Full Council 01/02/2018 adopted Pass
Action Text: The Resolution (Res) was adopted by the following vote, and the President signed the Resolution:
In Favor: 9 Councilmember Bagshaw, Councilmember González , Council President Harrell, Councilmember Herbold, Councilmember Johnson, Councilmember Juarez, Councilmember Mosqueda, Councilmember O'Brien, Councilmember Sawant
Opposed: 0
- 1 City Clerk 01/03/2018 submitted for Mayor's signature Mayor
- 1 Mayor 01/05/2018 Signed
- 1 Mayor 01/05/2018 returned City Clerk
- 1 City Clerk 01/05/2018 attested by City Clerk
Action Text: The Resolution (Res) was attested by City Clerk.
Notes:
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CITY OF SEATTLE

RESOLUTION 31773

A RESOLUTION affirming The City of Seattle’s commitment to racial equity and social justice and recognizing the Seattle Department of Transportation’s Transportation Equity Program, created to provide safe, environmentally sustainable, accessible, and affordable transportation options that support communities of color, low-income communities, immigrant and refugee communities, people with disabilities, people experiencing homelessness or housing insecurity, LGTBQ people, women and girls, youth, and seniors to thrive in place in vibrant and healthy communities, and eliminate or mitigate racial disparities and the effects of displacement.

WHEREAS, in Seattle transportation is the second highest household cost for all households after housing, disproportionately affecting low-income households, and safe, environmentally sustainable, accessible, and affordable transportation is a key contributor to households accessing and retaining housing and employment; and

WHEREAS, in Seattle and across the United States, communities of color, low-income communities, immigrant and refugee communities, people with disabilities, people experiencing homelessness or housing insecurity tend to live, work, play, and learn in concentrated areas, including often formerly redlined neighborhoods, or have been displaced to areas where barriers to safe, environmentally sustainable, accessible, and affordable transportation and housing among other race-based socio-economic disparities persist; and

WHEREAS, according to “The Impacts of Neighborhoods on Intergenerational Mobility: Childhood Exposure Effects and County-Level Estimates,” a national study on upward mobility published in 2015 by Harvard researchers, Raj Chetty and Nathaniel Hendren, commute time emerged as the single strongest indicator of the odds of escaping poverty, underscoring that the further low-income families must travel to access socio-economic

1 opportunities or are displaced to outlying areas, the less likely their chances are of
2 moving up the economic ladder; and

3 WHEREAS, the Transportation Equity Caucus, a national coalition comprised of policy experts
4 led by PolicyLink and The Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights, defines
5 transportation equity as “the fair and just treatment and meaningful involvement of all
6 people regardless of race, color, national origin, or income, with respect to the
7 development, implementation, and enforcement of transportation regulations, policies,
8 planning and investments”, and has identified the creation of affordable transportation
9 options among its top goals; and

10 WHEREAS, The City of Seattle launched the Race and Social Justice Initiative (RSJI) in 2004 to
11 eliminate race-based bias and disparities within city government, and in 2014 the Mayor's
12 RSJI Executive Order 2014-02 declared the City would incorporate a racial equity lens in
13 citywide initiatives to achieve coordinated planning and equitable growth; and

14 WHEREAS, in 2014, voters approved Proposition 1 to expand King County Metro bus transit
15 service in Seattle, investing approximately \$45 million annually in increased service,
16 helping to make bus transit a more reliable and affordable transportation option, and
17 allowing The City of Seattle to set aside up to \$2 million annually to support access to
18 transit service for low-income transit riders; and

19 WHEREAS, in 2015, King County implemented a low-income fare for metro transit service,
20 increasing access to transit for low-income riders; and

21 WHEREAS, in 2015, Rainer Beach High School students organized a march and a town hall to
22 raise awareness about the 2-mile walk zone threshold for school district-issued ORCA
23 transit passes and, in 2016, City Council directed the Seattle Department of

1 Transportation (SDOT) through the budgeting process to set aside \$1 million annually for
2 five years from the \$2 million annual Seattle Transportation Benefit District funds for
3 low-income access to transit to purchase Youth ORCA transit passes from King County
4 Metro and distribute the passes to free and reduced lunch eligible students living under
5 the 2-mile walk zone threshold; and

6 WHEREAS, in 2015, the Mayor unveiled Move Seattle, a 10-year vision for transportation in
7 Seattle, which included among its goals, giving all people living, working, learning, and
8 playing in the city high quality and low-cost transportation options, reducing
9 transportation costs and freeing up individual resources for other quality of life needs and
10 matters; and

11 WHEREAS, SDOT's multi-modal transportation investments and encouragement of emergent
12 transportation providers and mobility solutions are intended to reduce household
13 transportation costs and enable more people to live car-free or car-lite lifestyles; and

14 WHEREAS, in 2015, the Mayor and City Council confirmed via Resolution 31577 the city's
15 core values of race and social equity as one of the foundations on which The City of
16 Seattle's Comprehensive Plan was built and, in 2016, led to the establishment of the
17 Equitable Development Initiative and Implementation Plan with the intent of advancing
18 racial equity and social justice through strong and accessible communities where
19 communities could thrive in place; and

20 WHEREAS, in 2015, the Mayor launched the Equity and Environment Initiative (EEI) to deepen
21 Seattle's commitment to race and social justice in the environment and advance three
22 primary goals: All people and communities benefit from Seattle's environmental
23 progress; communities most affected by environmental injustice are engaged in setting

1 environmental priorities, designing strategies, and tracking progress; and, people of color,
2 immigrants, refugees, people with low incomes, and individuals with limited-English
3 proficiency have opportunities to be part of and be leaders in the environmental
4 movement; and

5 WHEREAS, in 2016, City Council adopted and the Mayor signed Resolution 31681 to establish
6 shared city and community goals and strategies within the Equity and Environment
7 Agenda as City policy and a critical aspect and foundation for all environment and
8 sustainability work in Seattle, including the transportation-related strategies embedded
9 within the EEI Agenda; and

10 WHEREAS, Seattle-based human services providers, youth advocates, transportation advocates,
11 neighborhood organizers, and social justice organizers from local advocacy groups,
12 including Capitol Hill Housing, Puget Sound Sage, Transportation Choices Coalition,
13 Transit Riders Union, the YWCA, Seattle Education Access, Seattle and King County
14 Coalition on Homelessness, One America, and Rainier Beach Action Coalition, have long
15 advocated for the advancement of transportation equity principles; NOW, THEREFORE,

16 **BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SEATTLE, THE**
17 **MAYOR CONCURRING, THAT:**

18 Section 1. Communities of color, low-income communities, immigrant and refugee
19 communities, people with disabilities, people experiencing homelessness or housing insecurity,
20 LGBTQ people, women and girls, youth, and seniors should benefit equitably from the city's
21 transportation investments, mobility innovation and progress to create safe, environmentally
22 sustainable, accessible, and affordable transportation options.

1 Section 2. The City Council and the Seattle Department of Transportation (SDOT)
2 recognize the need to lead by example and for government, community, businesses and
3 employers, and philanthropy to work together to prioritize access to affordable transportation
4 options and establish a process to define and advance equitable transportation through the SDOT
5 Transportation Equity Program. SDOT commits to the following Transportation Equity
6 Program-related preliminary actions using a racial equity and social justice lens.

7 A. SDOT intends to build community trust through engagement and accountability and
8 commits to:

9 1. Establish a Transportation Equity Program that is informed by the narratives
10 and expertise of those most affected by barriers to safe, environmentally sustainable, accessible,
11 and affordable transportation options; and

12 2. Explore opportunities to support the creation of a group or committee
13 comprised of those most affected by barriers to safe, environmentally sustainable, accessible, and
14 affordable transportation options to provide guidance on the program's development and
15 strategies; and

16 3. Address urgent transportation affordability needs through the Transportation
17 Equity Program; and

18 4. Coordinate with equity leads within SDOT and across city agency departments,
19 including but not limited to the Office of Sustainability and Environment and the Office of
20 Planning and Community Development, to advance transportation affordability; and

21 5. Build capacity of institutional and community leaders by expanding knowledge
22 about the intersection of race and social justice as it pertains to transportation as well as safe,

1 environmentally sustainable, accessible, and affordable transportation options in Seattle,
2 respectively.

3 B. SDOT intends to provide affordable transportation options and commits to:

4 1. Inventory, collect and analyze new and existing qualitative and quantitative
5 data to inform affordable transportation options; and

6 2. Assess existing affordable transportation options and expand successful
7 projects into citywide programs, extending access to more affordable transportation options; and

8 3. Create new affordable transportation mobility programs through strategic
9 community and stakeholder partnerships as well as in partnership with public and private
10 mobility service providers; and

11 4. Shape innovation and harness technology to advance affordable transportation
12 options; and

13 5. Work with the Department of Neighborhoods and collaborate with King
14 County Metro and King County Public Health to ensure culturally relevant and language
15 accessible affordable transportation information and programming is available and reaches
16 communities of color, low-income communities, immigrant and refugee communities, people
17 with disabilities, people experiencing homelessness or housing insecurity, LGTBQ people,
18 women and girls, youth, and seniors.

19 C. SDOT intends to create opportunities for communities to thrive in place through
20 affordable transportation and commits to work with community-based organizations, service
21 providers, affordable housing providers, and employers among other partners to identify and
22 develop affordable transportation programs that connect people to opportunities for upward
23 mobility, better quality-of-life, and greater well-being within their communities.

1 Section 3. The City Council and SDOT recognize the need for a community-centered
2 approach to the development of the Transportation Equity Program and intends to prioritize
3 affordability and co-create additional transportation equity goals, strategies, indicators, and
4 measures in partnership with leaders from community-based organizations, disproportionately
5 affected community members and stakeholders, as well as the Mayor, City Council, and City of
6 Seattle departmental agency and equity program leads. SDOT intends to work with the
7 Department of Neighborhoods to develop and execute the Transportation Equity Program’s
8 community engagement and public outreach strategy.

9 Section 4. SDOT intends to align and leverage transportation equity interests related to
10 affordability expressed within existing and on-going citywide planning efforts, including Equity
11 and Environment Agenda, the Equitable Development Implementation Plan, as well as regional
12 planning efforts and intends to collaborate with appropriate city departments, offices, and partner
13 agencies. The City of Seattle and SDOT are committed to eliminating racial disparities and
14 displacement by developing safe, environmentally sustainable, accessible and affordable
15 transportation options with existing and emergent mobility solutions that connect communities of
16 color, low-income communities, immigrant and refugee communities, people with disabilities,
17 people experiencing homelessness or housing insecurity, LGTBQ people, women and girls,
18 youth, and seniors to nearby affordable housing, living wage jobs, schools, places of worship,
19 cultural community assets, and green and open spaces consistent with the City’s Equitable
20 Development Implementation Plan, Equity and Environment Agenda, Comprehensive Plan, and
21 multi-modal mobility plans, including the pedestrian, bicycle, transit and freight master plans.

1 Section 5. SDOT intends to phase, track and report progress towards the Transportation
2 Equity Program’s goals. The Transportation Equity Program Manager intends to create a phased
3 approach to developing the program, which includes but is not limited to:


- 4 A. Convening community stakeholders;
- 5 B. Co-defining transportation equity goals;
- 6 C. Aligning existing and identifying new transportation equity-related strategies and
7 metrics;
- 8 D. Creating an implementation plan; and
- 9 E. Developing a benchmarking report.

10 The Transportation Equity Program Manager shall work to report via presentation
11 annually to the Mayor and City Council on the program’s progress towards advancing affordable
12 transportation within communities of color, low-income communities, immigrant and refugee
13 communities, the disability community, among people experiencing homelessness or housing
14 insecurity, LGTBQ people, women and girls, youth, and seniors throughout the city. The first
15 report via presentation shall be presented to the Sustainability and Transportation Committee no
16 later than September 30, 2018.

1 Adopted by the City Council the 2nd day of January, 2018,

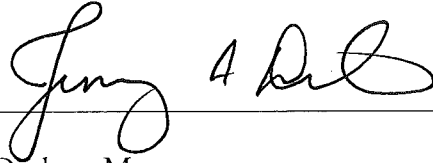
2 and signed by me in open session in authentication of its adoption this 2nd day of

3 January, 2018.

4 

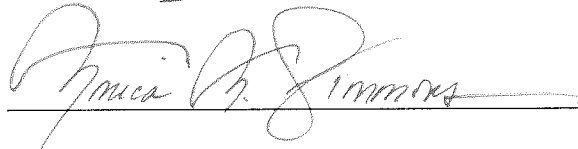
5 President _____ of the City Council

6 The Mayor concurred the 5th day of January, 2018.

7 

8 Jenny A. Durkan, Mayor

9 Filed by me this 5th day of January, 2018.

10 

11 Monica Martinez Simmons, City Clerk

12 (Seal)