



## City of Seattle

Seattle Renters' Commission

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June 5, 2024

### Re: Support larger transportation levy

Dear Seattle City Councilmembers:

The Seattle Renters' Commission supports a larger transportation levy of at least \$1.7B that improves safety along high-speed arterial streets and dedicates at least 50% of funding to improvements for people walking, rolling, biking, and taking transit.

Our safety and climate crises stem from a century of investments in car-centric infrastructure rooted in racism and disinvestment. Our city's historic red lines outlining where communities of color were allowed to live correspond almost exactly to modern maps of how safe and accessible our communities are, the quality and maintenance of our sidewalks, the prevalence of pedestrian lighting, the existence of safe bike routes, and more. We must right historic inequities in our transportation system through neighborhood and community investment to create a more inclusive city where renters, regardless of race, income or ability, have equitable access to safe and efficient transportation.

**Accessibility:** With 40% of residents being non-drivers, including people with disabilities, elders, and youth, the need for safe, reliable, and efficient non-automotive transportation options is crucial. Many renters do not have access to private vehicles, making these transportation improvements essential for daily commuting, access to services, and overall quality of life.

**Affordability:** Transportation is the [second largest household expenditure](#) behind housing, with the burden falling disproportionately on low-income families.

**Safety:** Apartments are concentrated along high-speed arterial streets where a [majority of crashes and injuries happen](#). Safety measures that significantly reduce crashes and injuries will allow renters to navigate the city with greater freedom and confidence.

**Climate:** Vehicle transportation makes up two-thirds of Seattle's greenhouse gas emissions. This air and noise pollution is concentrated along highways and arterial streets with dense apartments and high renter populations. We must invest in sustainable transportation options for the health of our communities.

#### Seattle Renter's Commission

Website: [www.seattle.gov/neighborhoods/seattle-renters-commission](http://www.seattle.gov/neighborhoods/seattle-renters-commission)

Staff Liaison Contact: [don\\_src\\_liaison@seattle.gov](mailto:don_src_liaison@seattle.gov)



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We urge the City Council to prioritize this significant investment in our transportation infrastructure and move Seattle towards being a vibrant, inclusive, and forward-thinking city that meets the diverse needs of its renter population.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,

The Seattle Renters' Commission

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