

## **LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF TACOMA-PIERCE COUNTY**

### **Position on TRANSPORTATION**

The League of Women Voters of Tacoma-Pierce County (LWVT-PC) supports action to achieve a balanced transportation system that is integrated, adequate and effective.

The LWVT-PC supports a county in which many forms of personal mobility are equitably available and compatible with attractive, livable, accessible and affordable communities. We support the preservation of optimum open space systems that both enhances urban areas and protects agricultural, recreational and other natural resource areas. Without meaningful protection from environmental pollutants, there can be little talk about amenities in an urban environment.

The LWVT-PC thinks of mobility in terms of moving people, more than of moving automobiles, and supports a transportation system which gives all people, whether or not they use autos, convenient and affordable access to the jobs, amenities and the opportunities of the county and region. There should be modest road improvements so that reasonable auto travel options would be open in most areas. Transit should be considered a public service. Operating costs should be subsidized consistent with the subsidization of other public services, considering the public goals to be achieved. Employers should be encouraged, or required, to help make transit accessible and use for their employees.

The LWVT-PC supports improved travel alternatives such as bikeways and walkways to work, shopping, and transit stations. We believe bike lanes should support effective commuting trips as well as recreational trips. We support improved transit service between regional multiple centers, not just from the outlying areas to the downtown areas.

The LWVT-PC supports passenger ferry service between the Gig Harbor/Peninsula area, Tacoma and Seattle. The passenger ferry service must be linked to other transportation systems in order for the system to function effectively.

The LWVT-PC supports reduction in the consumption of energy through an efficient and convenient transportation system. We support the transporting of freight via rail, including laws and subsidies to that effect, in order to lessen the amount and size of trucks on the freeways. We support this move for energy efficiency as well as safety reasons.

The LWVT-PC supports the establishment of an effective transportation planning process in Pierce County. The planning process should give serious consideration to the Telecommunications/Telecommuting issue as an element that will have a dramatic long-term impact on transportation. The planning process should recommend methods to implement that shoulders and/or sidewalks be required on all streets and roads to increase the safety and convenience of pedestrians and bicyclists.

The LWVT-PC supports effective coordination between and among governments - local and regional, private enterprise and the community. We support efforts to make certain that all modes of transportation from buses (public and private), rail, ferries, park and ride lots, pedestrian, and bicycles are planned to work together in an integrated system.

The LWVT-PC supports options for future improvements to the transportation system by taking advantage of advances in technology and transportation research.

The LWVT-PC supports a regional rapid transit system that connects Tacoma in Pierce County to the rest of the Puget Sound region.

The LWVT-PC supports and recommends that land use planning and development be coordinated with state, regional, and local transportation planning and investment. The planning process should also include response to climate change. Construction and repair should assure that the county's transportation infrastructure can withstand extreme weather events.

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