


# How to Speak up for Transit Equity

YOUR ADVOCACY CHEAT-SHEET FOR TACOMA-PIERCE COUNTY


## Prioritizing our most vulnerable communities

Transportation is the second-largest expense for families nationwide, but it is the single largest barrier to escaping poverty, according to 2015 Harvard University study.<sup>10</sup>

In the Puget Sound, housing and transportation consume nearly 50% of the average household's income. Only 4% of neighborhoods are considered location-efficient, close to jobs and services.<sup>11</sup>

 In 2018, The City Council passed a Health Equity Policy, stating that City policies are to be developed through thorough and meaningful analysis to ensure they have positive health effects on the community.

In Tacoma 2025, the City's strategic plan, the City committed to making all neighborhoods sustainable and healthy and to reducing the percentage of households spending more than 45% on housing and transportation.




 Health equity means everyone has the opportunity to reach their full health potential. Health starts where we live, learn, work and play. Our income, education, housing and transportation create opportunities or barriers to health.

Health should not be determined by zip code, income, race or any other factor. Healthy choices should be convenient for everyone in Pierce County.<sup>12</sup> See attached information.

<sup>10</sup> <https://www.nytimes.com/2015/05/07/upshot/transportation-emerges-as-crucial-to-escaping-poverty.html>

<sup>11</sup> H + T Affordability Index, <https://htaindex.cnt.org/map/>

<sup>12</sup> Tacoma Pierce County Health Department

   DOTG Advocacy Philosophies and Priorities: To advance the equity of all users of our local and regional transportation system, and specifically employees, students, and residents in downtown Tacoma. In accordance with our mission and vision, we aim to support measures which:

- Increase ease, efficiency, and accessibility
- Increase safety
- Increase connectivity
- Reflect the "green transportation hierarchy"
- Reinforce a compact, urban core

Transportation Advocacy Day is supported by:

**DOWNTOWN:**  
*On the go!*

