

CITY OF LAKEWOOD



PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, on average public transit provides almost one quarter of one billion passenger trips in Washington State each year; and

WHEREAS, Washington's transit provider landscape is vast and varied, including 32 transit agencies (eight serving urban areas, 11 small urban, and 13 rural); 17 tribal transportation providers; more than 20 community transportation providers; six Medicaid transportation brokers; four Travel Washington intercity bus program lines; eight ferry systems and one Monorail; and

WHEREAS, transit agencies in Washington State invest almost \$5 Billion in transit capital and operations each year; and

WHEREAS, the recently passed transformative transportation package, *Move Ahead Washington*, invests more than \$3 Billion in transit programs and projects; and

WHEREAS, during the COVID-19 pandemic, transit agencies continued to provide more than 100 million annual passenger trips for essential workers or essential rides, as well as pivoting to bring other services to communities including delivering meals, groceries and prescriptions to people with disabilities, seniors, people with low incomes and people with special transportation needs; and

WHEREAS, transit in Washington today reduces 371K metric tons of CO₂ emission per year. If all people driving alone were to shift to transit, we can save 130K metric tons of CO₂ emissions per year – about equal to 28,272 passenger vehicles driven for one year. And for every \$1 Million invested in Washington State Transit, it equates to 102K metric tons of CO₂ reduction, which is equal to the carbon sequestered by 125,000 acres of U.S. Forests in one year; and

WHEREAS, public transportation investments generate 31% more jobs per dollar than new construction of roads and bridges. Investment in transit can yield 49,700 jobs per \$1 billion invested, and offers a 5 to 1 economic return; and

WHEREAS, almost 25% of Washingtonians cannot or do not drive and may rely on public transit; and

WHEREAS, greater Transit use is associated with higher levels of physical activity, which is associated with lower health risks and better health outcomes; and

WHEREAS, Transit trips are 10 times safer per mile than car trips and a person can reduce his or her chance of being in an accident by more than 90% simply by taking public transit opposed to commuting by car; and

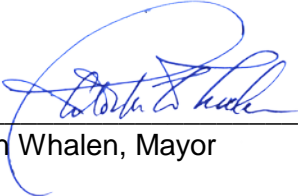
WHEREAS, Transit provides essential trips and essential jobs for People of Color and low-income individuals. Among urban residents, Black, Latinx, and foreign-born community members are more likely to take public transit daily or weekly, compared with whites. During COVID, ridership has remained highest on routes that serve communities of color. In American cities, people of color account for a disproportionate share of the 2.8 million essential workers who usually commute on transit. Among frontline transit workers, a greater share are Black or Latinx, or are from low-income households.

NOW, THEREFORE, the Lakewood City Council hereby designates June 2022 as

RIDE TRANSIT MONTH

in the City of Lakewood and encourages residents to observe Ride Transit Month with appropriate events and activities to promote public transportation.

PROCLAIMED this 6th day of June, 2022.



Jason Whalen, Mayor