



# Our Transportation Justice Agenda

Can you imagine a future where reliable public transportation and safe sidewalks, crosswalks, and bike paths are as commonplace as running water and electricity? What would the health, accessibility, and safety of our communities be like in this future?

In Washington State, transportation accounts for 44.9% of our greenhouse gas emissions, and cars and trucks make up over half of all pollution from transportation. We are also experiencing a 20-year high in pedestrian and bicycle deaths and an overall increase in traffic fatalities per vehicle miles traveled.

At the same time, Front and Centered's latest data visualization tool, the **Washington Transit Access Map**, reveals that Washingtonians experience drastic inequalities in reliable transit service. These inequities are part of the legacy of redlining, a discriminatory practice that turned communities of color into easy dumping grounds for the construction of highways and high-speed arterials. **Clearly, we need to do things differently.**

***Front and Centered is proposing a sweeping Transportation Justice Agenda to reorient the way we invest our transportation dollars and prioritize safety with clear standards for improving transit and safe sidewalks and crosswalks.***

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- ***Make real investments that solve the problem:*** A new state account and redirection of large investments towards closing the gaps in our transit service and safe sidewalks, and a state transportation budget that supports climate justice and mobility justice for everyone in Washington State.
- ***Moratorium and divestment:*** A pause and a rethink on building or expanding highways in frontline communities, those who are already the most overburdened by pollution and racial and economic injustice in Washington State.
- ***Create actionable standards and targets:*** A concrete roadmap to completing missing sidewalks and building back our state's public transportation network.

Together, these actions would be a significant down payment on a high-mobility and low-carbon transportation future that will reduce health disparities, boost local economies, and help respond to our climate crisis.

Reverend Frank A. Willoughby, Pastor of Eastside Baptist Church in Tacoma, a Front and Centered member organization, says:

"We want our kids to be able to get off the school bus and cross the street without danger of being hit by cars. We want members of our congregation to be able to walk to church, even if they are elderly, or use a cane or a wheelchair. **This is not too much to ask.** Transformation of Portland Avenue could change our whole neighborhood."