

Resolution Supporting Sustainable Transit Funding

- 1 **WHEREAS** King County's Metro Transit as well as the Pierce County and Snohomish County
2 transit systems have and will experience severe cuts in night and weekend services and less-
3 used routes; and
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- 5 **WHEREAS** due to the Great Recession, transit use has grown by double digits and many
6 people are now forced to stand for the entirety of their trips, and elderly and disabled people in
7 particular rely on transit because many can no longer drive; and
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- 9 **WHEREAS** the Legislature two years ago passed a temporary local-option \$20 Motor Vehicle
10 Excise Tax (MVET) for King County only and is now considering an MVET of up to 1.5% of the
11 vehicle purchase price of which 60% would be dedicated to transit and 40% to local roads; and
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- 13 **WHEREAS** transit users have relieved the state economy, including state and local
14 jurisdictions, of hundreds of millions of dollars annually in congestion costs, and while
15 increasing freight mobility from every county in the state through the Port of Seattle; and
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- 17 **WHEREAS** congestion harms local economies and reduces jobs and the tax base; and
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- 19 **WHEREAS** reduction in transit may harm low-income people both directly and secondarily by
20 reducing county services; and
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- 22 **WHEREAS** what transit systems as well as the state ferry system need is a permanent and
23 sustainable funding system that would assure maintenance as well as bonding capacity for the
24 ferry replacement; and
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- 26 **WHEREAS** an excise tax on vehicle purchases is a progressive solution to this funding
27 problem that taxes purchasers of expensive and inexpensive vehicles equitably; and
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- 29 **WHEREAS** voters in populous counties and their elected councils have often proved
30 responsive to these needs to provide these funds based on local decision-making; now
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- 32 **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that we, the Washington State Democratic Central
33 Committee, support a Motor Vehicle Excise Tax, properly administered, as a sustainable
34 solution to inadequate funding to support the growing needs for transit and local roads
35 maintenance both in King County and elsewhere in Washington State, both as a local option
36 and as the responsibility of the Legislature to adequately fund transit, ferry and local roads; and
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- 38 **THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Washington State Democratic Central
39 Committee urges our representatives in the Legislature to support a Motor Vehicle Excise Tax
40 as sustainable funding as part of the 2013 transportation package; and
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- 42 **THEREFORE BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED** that the Washington State Democratic Central
43 Committee urges our County Councils to support and to implement such local options as the
44 Legislature may permit without a vote of the people due to the dire consequences in service
45 cuts to not taking immediate action in the current fiscal year.

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Submitted by the 30th Legislative District Democrats to the Washington State Democratic Central Committee for consideration at its April 27, 2013 meeting in Chelan. (Date Submitted 4/19/2013)

Submitted by the 32nd Legislative District Democrats to the Washington State Democratic Central Committee for consideration at its April 27, 2013 meeting in Chelan. (Date Submitted 4/19/2013)

The WSDCC Resolutions Committee “AMENDED THIS RESOLUTION AND RECOMMENDED A PASS” at its April 27, 2013 meeting in Chelan.

The WSDCC “PASSED” this resolution at its April 27, 2013 meeting in Chelan.