

### TRANSPORTATION EQUITY AND AFFORDABLE HOUSING

Affordable housing and transportation are interconnected elements of community development, influencing accessibility, mobility, and economic opportunity. Housing affordability affects transportation choices and costs, as households may be forced to relocate to areas with lower housing costs but limited access to transportation options, resulting in longer commutes and increased transportation expenses. The lack of affordable housing near transit hubs and job centers further exacerbates transportation challenges for low-income individuals and families. According to the American Public Transportation Association, housing and transportation combined can account for up to 50% of household expenses, particularly for low-income households. Integrating affordable housing with transit-oriented development and expanding access to affordable housing options near transportation hubs can enhance mobility, reduce transportation costs, and promote sustainable, equitable communities.

### WHAT THE DATA SAYS

#### COMMUTE TIME

The average travel time to work in Pierce County is 31 minutes each way, totaling 62 minutes of commuting each day.<sup>1</sup>

#### 137,000 COMMUTERS

In 2019, 36% of employed Tacomans, approximately 137,000 people, commuted to King County for work.<sup>2</sup>

#### WORKING WHERE YOU LIVE

When people can't afford to live and work in the same community their long commutes of ten miles or more each way are associated with serious health consequences such as elevated cholesterol and blood sugar levels.

#### COMMUTES OVER 1 HR

The number of workers in Tacoma who have commutes of more than an hour increased by almost 70% from 2010 to 2019.<sup>3</sup>

#### CAR DEPENDENCY COSTS

Households in auto-dependent neighborhoods spend approximately 25% of their income on transportation costs.<sup>4</sup>

#### MOBILITY OPTIONS

For those in neighborhoods with a variety of mobility options, only 9% of a household's income is spent on transportation costs.<sup>5</sup>

#### COST OF TRANSIT

In 2022, the average cost per passenger trip on a Pierce Transit bus was \$14.46 and \$11.26 for vanpools.<sup>6</sup>



### SUPPORT TRANSIT-ORIENTED DEVELOPMENT

Developing mixed-income housing near transit hubs, implementing affordable housing requirements in transit-oriented development projects, and expanding public transportation options can improve access to affordable housing and reduce transportation costs for low-income households.

### FIND MORE INFORMATION

- [Pierce County Transportation Resources](#)
- [Pierce County Transportation Options](#)
- [Pierce Transit](#)
- [Ride Together Pierce County](#)
- [Sound Transit](#)
- [Dept. of Transportation: Housing and Transportation Affordability](#)
- [The Housing and Transportation \(H+T®\) Affordability Index](#)

### HOW TO HELP

Advocate for equitable transit-oriented development policies, support investments in affordable housing near transit, and promote policies prioritizing affordable housing in transportation planning efforts.



### PARTNERS SUPPORTING TRANSIT ORIENTED DEVELOPMENT



Pierce County



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

### AFFORDABLE HOUSING CONSORTIUM

The Affordable Housing Consortium is effecting change through community education, advocacy, and the provision of resources to advance the development and preservation of housing that is affordable, accessible, and free of discrimination. Because everyone deserves a place to call home.



1. U.S. Census Bureau. (2018, July 1). [Quick Facts-Pierce County, WA-population estimates.](https://www.census.gov/quickfacts/fact/table/piercecountywashington/PST045218) [Table]. Retrieved from <https://www.census.gov/quickfacts/fact/table/piercecountywashington/PST045218>

2, 3 HUD, Tacoma-Lakewood, Washington Comprehensive Housing Market Analysis as of June 1, 2022

4, 5. [https://www.huduser.gov/portal/publications/pdf/Creating\\_Cnnted\\_Comm.pdf](https://www.huduser.gov/portal/publications/pdf/Creating_Cnnted_Comm.pdf)

6. [Pierce Transit 2023-2028 Transit Development Plan](#)