

Submitter: Cameron Vandenberg

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Joint Committee On Ways and Means Subcommittee On
Capital Construction

Measure, Appointment or SB1601
Topic:

I am writing in objection to the stripping of funding from public transit and safe pathways initiatives. As someone who makes frequent use of public transit and cycling lanes, and who has enjoyed them for many years, it is extremely disappointing to me to see this resolution. I have elderly family members who need to take the train in order to visit other family, and younger siblings and cousins who use cycling lanes to get to school every day. Am I supposed to tell them that they'll just need to drive from now on? Or are they just out of luck to visit their friends in other towns?

One of the most life-changing experiences I have had in the last few years was taking the Amtrak line to Seattle and back. I was under the impression that we were to be preparing for a high speed rail initiative in the near future. How are we, as your constituents, supposed to have faith in this project when we are regularly gutting funding from our transit? Are we supposed to assume that the next time it will be different and we really will fund our trains?

It brings me no end of frustration to see that our group of elected officials-- who are supposed to be supporting the will of their constituents-- is finding ways to regularly make our lives harder. I would recommend finding other ways to build up the funds required to make up the shortage that don't involve punishing the working class. I'm sick of austerity, of our lives slowly getting worse, and I don't want to have to sit down and explain to my family why their programs aren't being expanded, and why they can't get to school anymore. Forcing everyone to rely on cars is a huge step backward and I won't be supporting anybody who votes in favor of that, full stop. We shouldn't have to settle for a decline in our quality of life. Our government needs to turn its attention instead to how it can make our lives better.