



PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, on average, public transit provides more than 100 million passenger trips in Washington State each year from 32 transit agencies, 17 Tribal transportation providers, more than 20 community transportation providers, 6 Medicaid transportation brokers, 4 Travel Washington intercity bus program lines, 8 ferry systems, and 1 Monorail; and

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

WHEREAS, Move Ahead Washington, the transformative transportation package passed in 2022, will invest more than \$3 billion in transit programs and projects over 16 years thanks to support from the 2021 Climate Commitment Act; and

WHEREAS, Move Ahead Washington also established the first-in-the-nation Youth Ride Free Program, which provides zero-cost fares to more than 1.4 million young people across Washington, including 14.8 million passengers under 18 who rode transit for free in 2023; and

WHEREAS, nearly 25% of Washingtonians do not drive and may rely on public transit, and many Washingtonians cannot regularly move from place to place in a safe or timely manner because they lack the necessary resources; and

WHEREAS, a 2021 study from the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine concluded that the energy saved in 2018 by passengers in the U.S. using public transit rather than personal vehicles saved 63 million metric tons of carbon dioxide; and

WHEREAS, investment in transit can yield 49,700 jobs per \$1 billion invested; and

WHEREAS, greater transit use is associated with higher levels of physical activity; and

WHEREAS, transit is essential for people of color and low-income individuals; and

WHEREAS, transit provides freedom of movement for youth, seniors, people with disabilities, and all members of the community; and

WHEREAS, the 2026 completion of the Lake Washington floating train bridge is the first of its kind in the world, an engineering marvel created in part through the work of Lake Forest Park residents to connect communities across Lake Washington; and

WHEREAS, nearly 60% of the voters of Lake Forest Park supported the ST3 bond package in 2016, among the highest rates of support in the service area; and

WHEREAS, transit connects Lake Forest Park residents, workers, shoppers, and visitors with our neighboring communities; and

WHEREAS, transportation accounts for 69% of carbon emissions in Lake Forest Park, with on-road vehicles representing 31%; and

WHEREAS, car tires produce toxins that poison endangered salmon in the creeks of Lake Forest Park, Lake Washington, and Puget Sound; and

WHEREAS, transitioning private car trips to public transit reduces carbon pollution, tire dust, noise pollution, and safety concerns for pedestrians; and

WHEREAS, the City of Lake Forest Park Climate Action Plan calls for the City to "increase transit ridership through education and outreach"; and

WHEREAS, work on transit is made possible by the collaboration of partners across the state who are leading the way in promoting equitable, accessible, and sustainable transportation options.

NOW, THEREFORE, the Mayor and City Council of the City of Lake Forest Park, do hereby proclaim the month of June 2026 as

RIDE TRANSIT MONTH

in the City of Lake Forest Park and call upon all residents and civic organizations to acquaint themselves with public transit options in the city, to ride public transit, and to recognize the contributions that public transit and public transit workers bring to our community to improve our health, safety, comfort, and quality of life.

Signed this 28th day of May 2026

Tom French, Mayor