

Transportation Services and UW Board of Regents:

The undersigned organizations, which have been advocating for a fully-subsidized U-PASS for all UW employees since 2018, offer the following joint comments on the U-PASS and parking proposals:

- 1. **We strongly support extending a fully-subsidized U-PASS to ALL employees.** The climate crisis is the existential challenge of our times. By building on the successes of the U-PASS program and making the U-PASS a universal benefit, the UW will invest in our public transit system and make it easy for employees to ride transit whenever possible. Major institutions like the UW have a responsibility to model climate leadership, and this proposal shows that the UW can make bold moves when it wants to!
- 2. **We strongly support funding the U-PASS like other employee benefits.** We applaud the proposed shift away from the unsustainable model of funding the U-PASS through parking fees. Like other employee benefits, the U-PASS should be funded through the benefit load. This ensures that the U-PASS program will not be undermined as the UW succeeds in shifting more and more car trips to transit and other modes.
- 3. **The UW must work to expand affordable housing and improve transit service.** Currently, not all employees have the choice to ride transit. Buses and trains don't run at all times of day and the affordable housing crisis has forced many employees to live far from campus in areas without good transit service. The UW must be a more active participant in improving the regional transit system and building affordable housing close to transit hubs and campus. The UW should listen to its employees' commute challenges and assertively advocate for transit system improvements. Let's reach a point where the U-PASS is a tool that every employee finds useful and of real benefit.
- 4. **The UW must find a more equitable way to price parking.** Employees for whom public transit is not a viable option are disproportionately lower-income and people of color, as well as employees who have been on the front lines throughout the pandemic. It is inconsistent with the UW's values of racial and economic justice to expect these employees to pay more and more for parking. While pricing parking is important to pay for expensive parking infrastructure and to encourage transit use when people have a real choice, the UW needs to reassess its across-the-board, all-times-of-day employee parking rate increase to determine a more equitable proposal. Parking rate increases shouldn't penalize the people who are already struggling the most.

**Signatories:**

AAUP-UW	Local 1488
Sierra Club	Teamsters Local 117
Transit Riders Union	350 Seattle
UWLU SEIU 925	UAW 4121
Resident & Fellow Physician Union - Northwest	SEIU 925
SEIU 1199NW	WSNA