

# Pathways to Transportation Equity

Presented by,  
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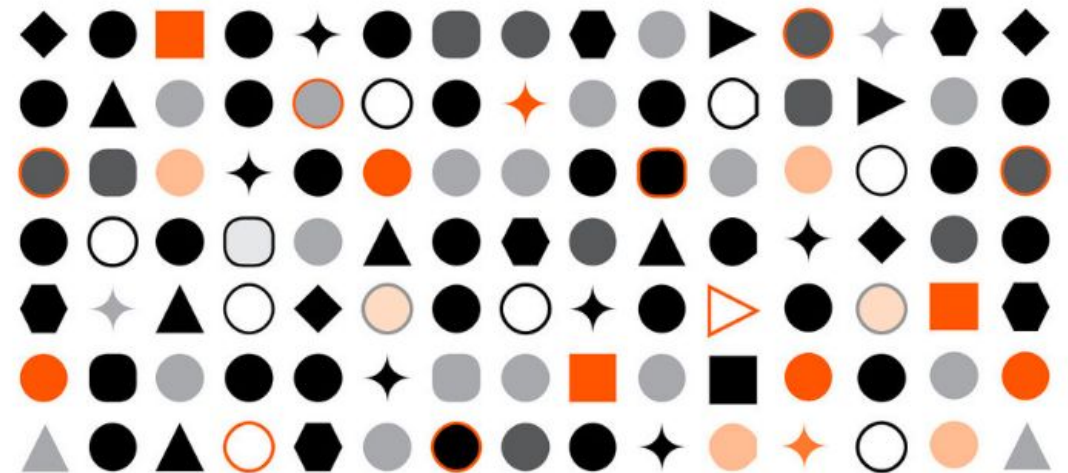
# Background

## Personal:

- First generation
- Planner
- co-founder of The Untokening
- Rooted in Principles of Mobility Justice
- Racial & Social Justice Organizing

# Mobility Justice

includes **multi-racial organizing** for communities to reclaim power and agency from the structures, policies, and programs that have divided them. It acknowledges distrust grounded in anti-blackness, anti-immigrant sentiments, etc., traces resentments to their sources, and uses that process to **foster communication, build trust, and forge a common vocabulary and agenda.**



[www.untokening.org](http://www.untokening.org)

# Background

## SDOT Transportation Equity Program:

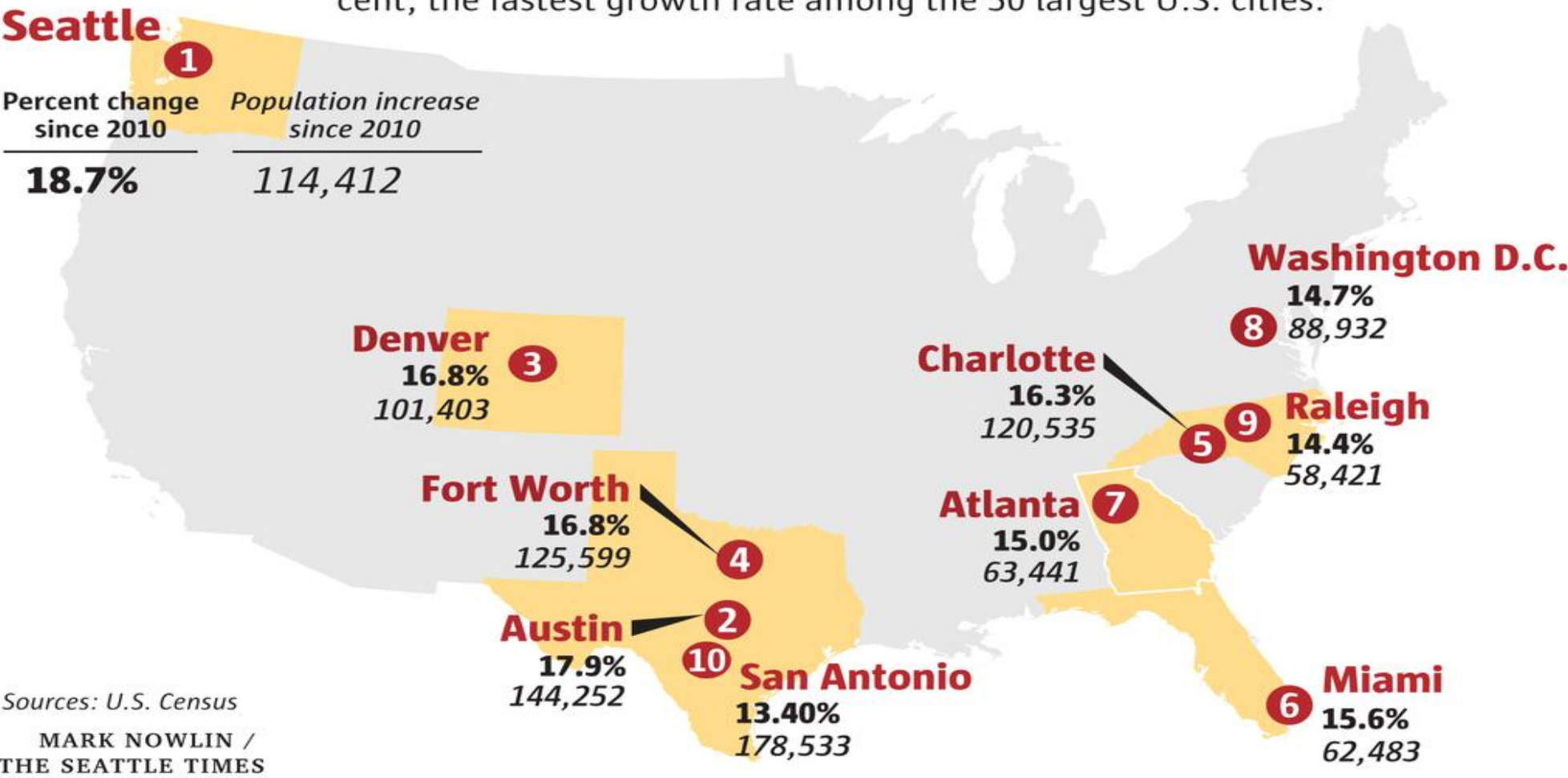
- Community pushed for equity; City and Department-wide efforts.
- A voter-approved Seattle Transportation Benefit District (STBD) passed in late 2014; Generates ~\$50 M annually (thru 2020), allocating a cap of \$2 M annually to low-income access to transit.
- SDOT established the Transportation Equity in 2017.
- Seattle City Council adopted a Resolution (31773) in 2018, supporting SDOT's Transportation Equity Program and approach.
- An additional \$230,000 annually (2018-2019) was allocated by Seattle City Council to supplement the Transportation Equity Program's budget for engagement work.
- Over the next year (2019-2020), SDOT is developing a Transportation Equity Agenda with community members to inform future work and strategies within SDOT.



# Context

## Seattle No. 1 for growth this decade

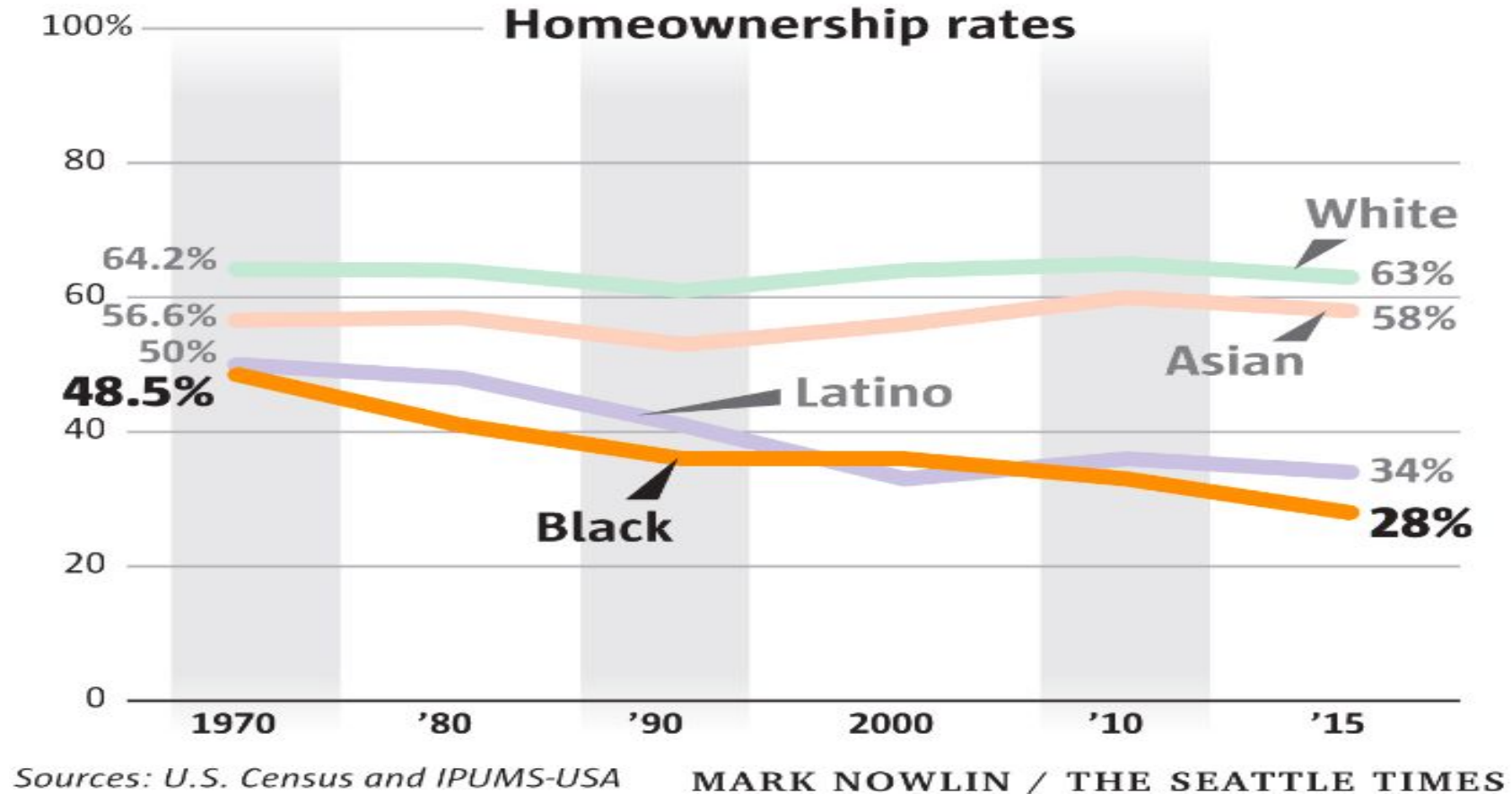
Since 2010, Seattle's population has increased by 18.7 per cent, the fastest growth rate among the 50 largest U.S. cities.



# Context

## Growing racial gap in homeownership

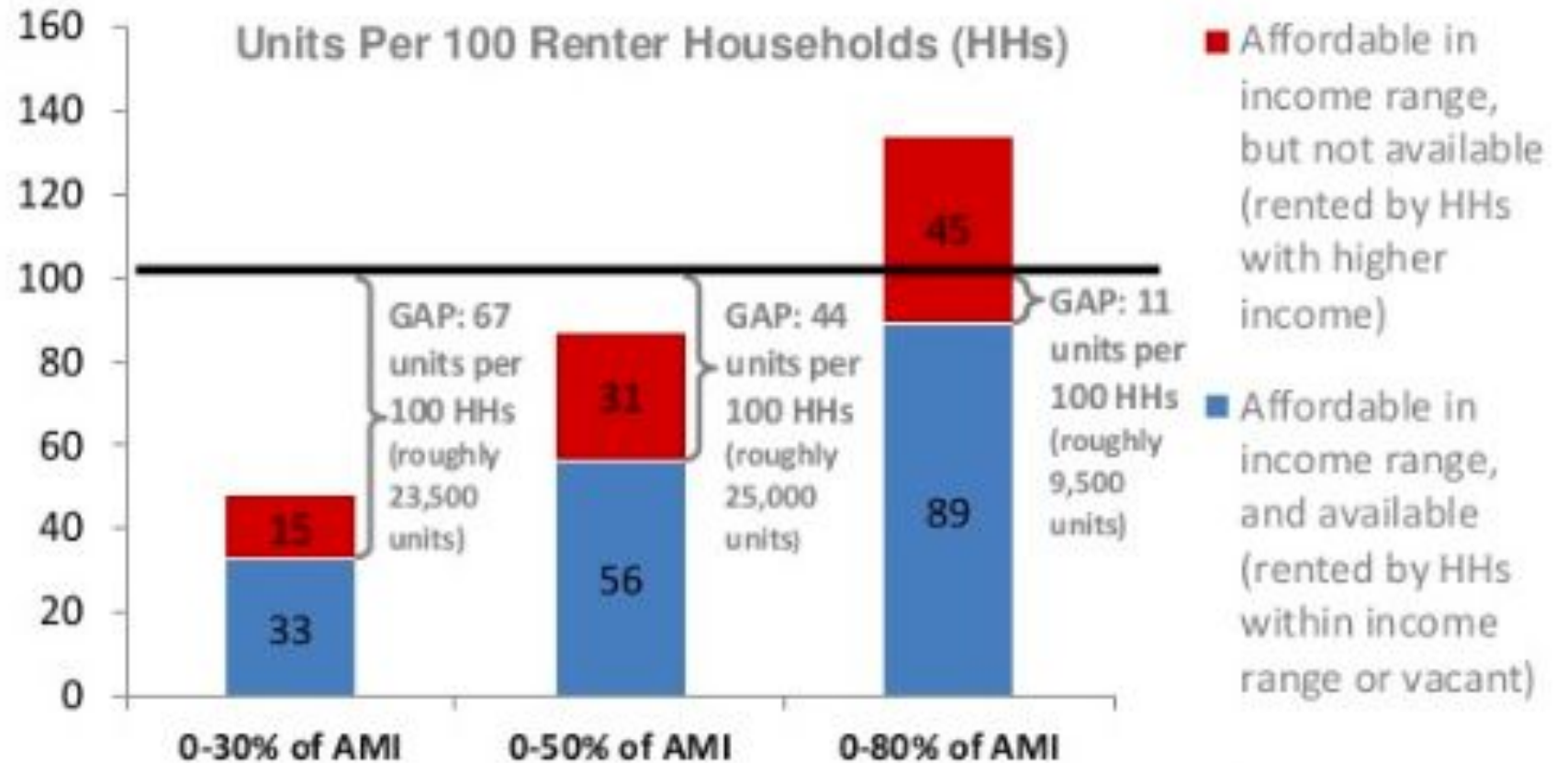
Homeownership rates in King County for blacks and Latinos have declined sharply since 1970, but have remained relatively stable for whites and Asians.



# Context

## Affordability and Availability: Rental Housing

The gap between rental households, and affordable *and* available housing units is greatest for lowest income households. Part of the gap is due to higher income households renting units affordable at lower income levels.



Source: U.S. Housing & Urban Development, CHAS, 2006-2010 5-Year American Community Survey, Seattle city.  
Note: these are rough estimates.



# Framework & Principles



# Overview

## SDOT's Transportation Equity Program:

- Build community capacity and mobility by providing information & resources
- Safe, affordable, accessible & environmentally sustainable transportation

## Core components

- Partnership programming
- Policy advisement
- Community engagement





# Programming

## Seattle Transportation District: Low-income Access to Transit

<b>ORCA LIFT &amp; ORCA Opportunity Partnerships</b> SDOT, the Seattle Department of Neighborhoods, King County Metro, Public Health of Seattle-King County, Seattle Housing Authority	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Income-qualifying participants</li><li>• Pre-loaded ORCA LIFT cards or ORCA cards</li><li>• Transit vouchers</li><li>• Regional Reduced Fare Permit</li><li>• Education/training about transit navigation and card use</li></ul>
<b>Ambassador Program</b> SDOT, Seattle Department of Neighborhoods, and community-based organizations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Affordable transportation information</li><li>• Pre-loaded ORCA LIFT cards or ORCA cards</li><li>• Transit vouchers</li><li>• Regional Reduced Fare Permit</li><li>• Mobility Fairs</li></ul>
<b>Car Tab Rebate</b> SDOT, Seattle Department of Human Services, Washington State Department of Licensing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Income-qualifying participants</li><li>• Paid Car Tab Fee with a \$20 rebate</li></ul>



# Programming

## Seattle Transportation District: Low-income Access to Transit

### Goals:

- Provide 1,500 SHA residents with free unlimited ORCA cards
  - Eligibility: Ages 19 – 64 making 30% and below the Area Median Income at select SHA properties
- Increase access to employment, education, and other opportunities via free transit
- Test distribution models for scalability

### Status:

- Launched June 2019 through Summer 2020
- 100%+ distribution
- Mid-point evaluation underway



# Programming

## Aging Adult Pilot with Senior Centers

### Goals:

- Provide ~200+ Aging Adults with a monthly Regional Reduced Fare Permit at four senior center sites
  - 2 larger sites with greater capacity
  - 2 smaller sites with less capacity
- Provide Regional Reduced Fare Permit education to staff at selected senior center sites
- Learn about aging adults' transportation needs
- Inform future Seattle Transportation Benefit District and other funding

### Status:

- Launched Fall 2019; Pilot ends 2019; Evaluation in early 2020



# Programming

## Youth Ambassador Program

### Goals:

- SDOT is providing two youth-based organizations with funding to develop storytelling engagement processes so they can share their communities' experience with transportation
- Learn about youth transportation needs for future investments and programming

### Status:

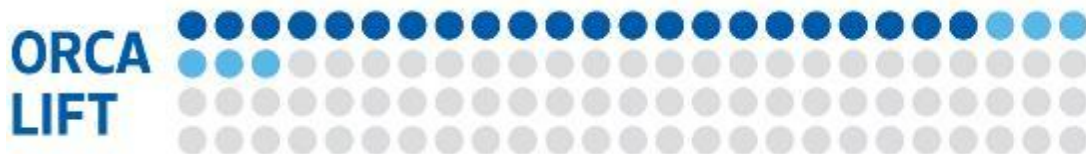
- Launched in Fall 2019; Pilot ends 2019: Evaluation in early 2020



Photo credit: Ty Celeste, via [www.southseattleemerald.com](http://www.southseattleemerald.com)

# Programming Outcomes

ORCA LIFT Pre-Loaded Cards	Education & Engagement	Vehicle License Fee Rebate
<p>9,260 pre-loaded ORCA LIFT cards distributed (since start of program)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 41% reloaded (3,823) for continued use</li> <li>• Since 2016, these cards have generated 1,226,707 boardings on all ORCA services, with 958,668 boardings on King County Metro alone.</li> </ul>	<p>22 events</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 9+ languages represented</li> <li>• 2,300+ people reached</li> <li>• 170+ mobility surveys collected</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Year 1: 4,909 rebates issued</li> <li>• Year 2: 4,152 rebates issued</li> <li>• Year 3: 5,186 rebates issued</li> </ul>



**40,000 Eligible Seattleites**  
 Enrolled (9,260 from Pre-loaded cards)  
 20% of eligible population

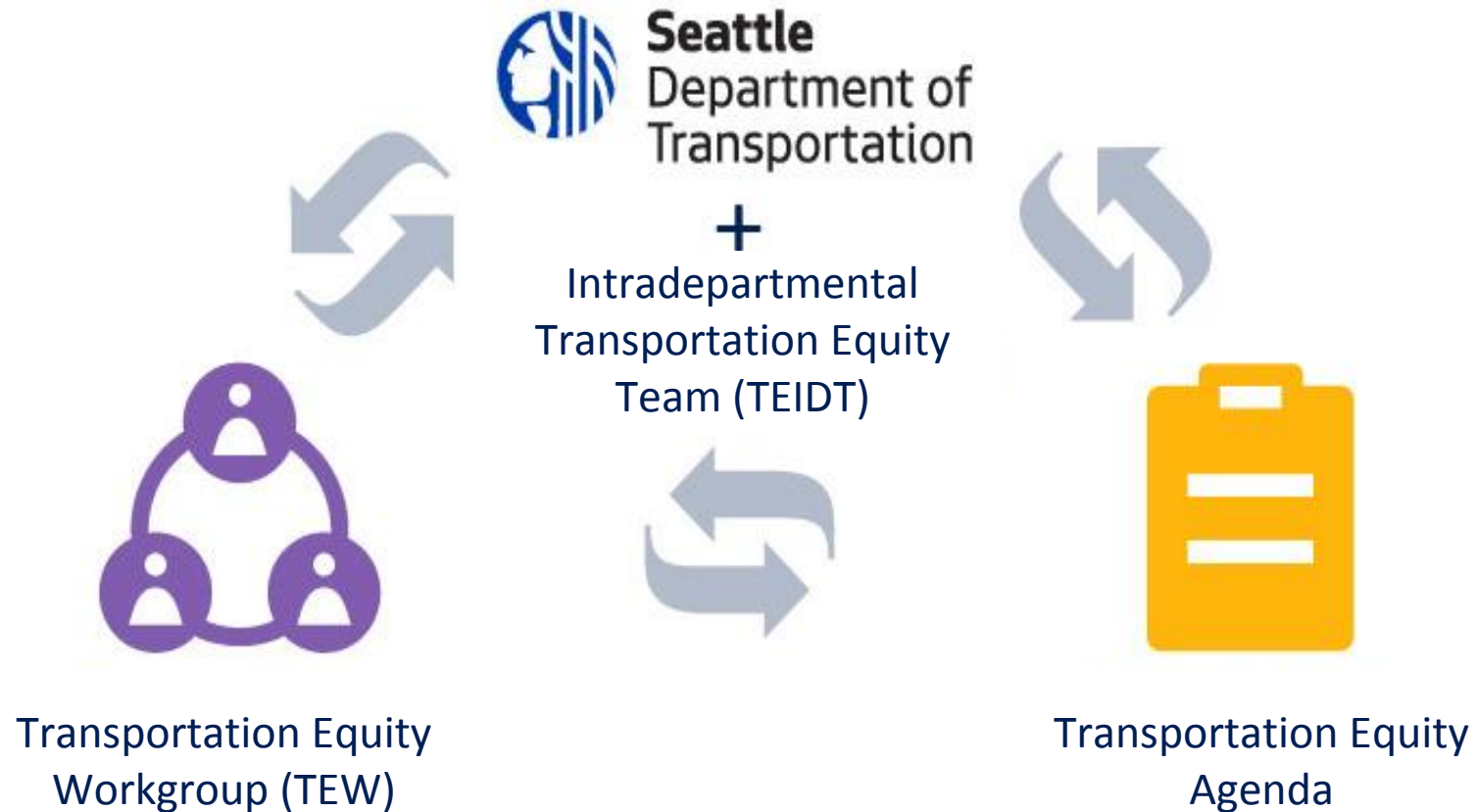
**VLF Rebate**  **14,247 Rebates Issued**

Source:

All Aboard STBD Year 3 Performance Report

[http://www.seattle.gov/Documents/Departments/Transit/2018STBDAnnualReport\\_FINALv2.pdf](http://www.seattle.gov/Documents/Departments/Transit/2018STBDAnnualReport_FINALv2.pdf)

# Engagement Strategy

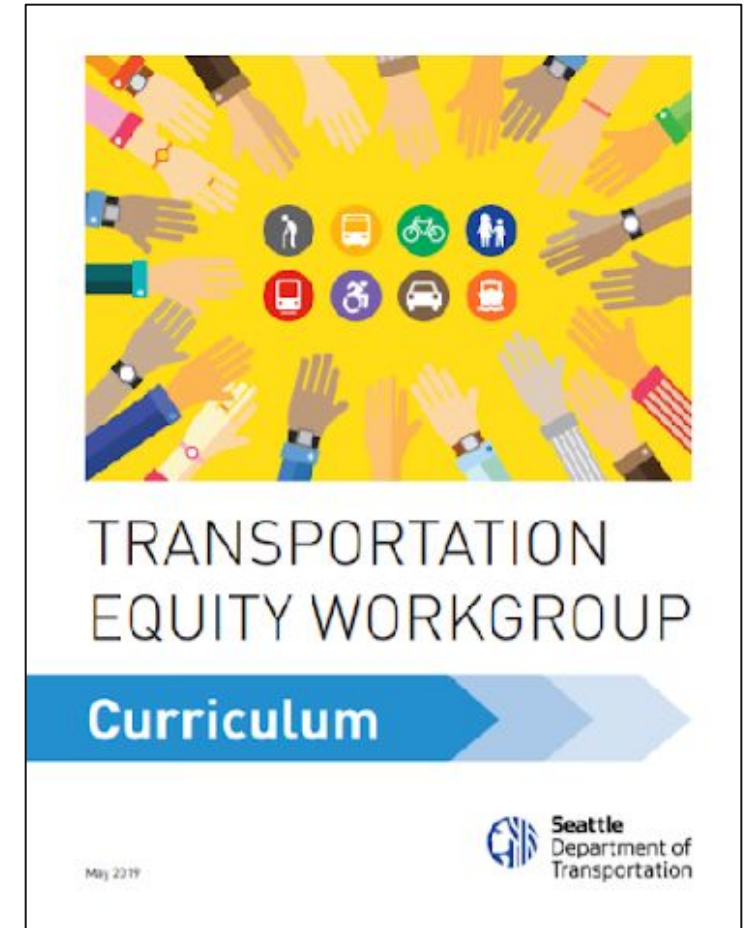




# Internal Engagement Strategy

## Transportation Equity Intradepartmental Team (TE IDT)

- SDOT staff members from across Department
  - To support the defining of transportation equity
  - To support the development of materials for community workgroup's learning and education
  - To provide guidance and review of community guided recommendations for the Transportation Equity Agenda



# External Engagement Strategy

## Transportation Equity Workgroup

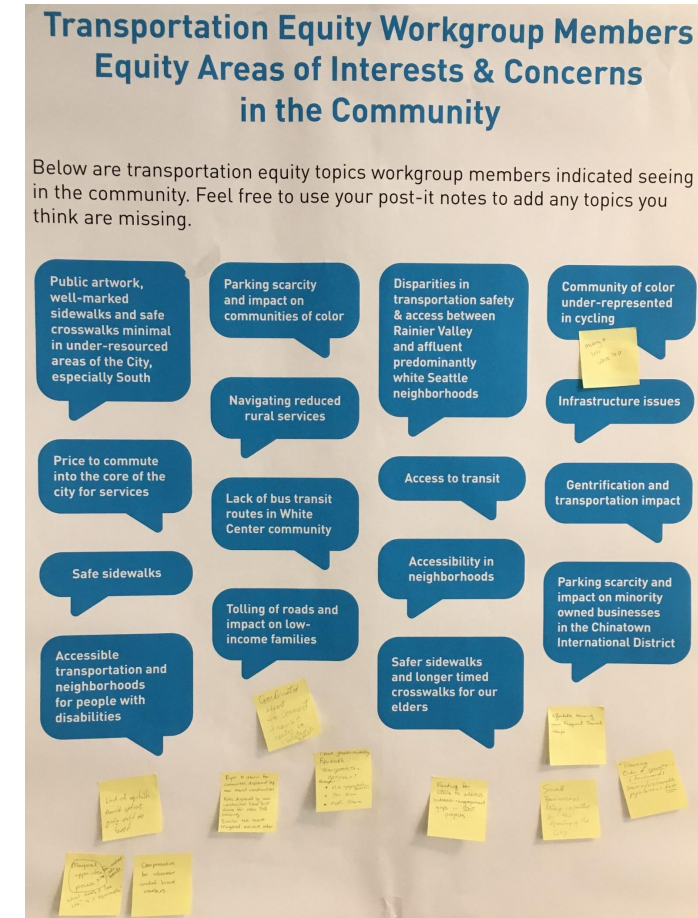
- Established in Spring 2019
- 10 members affiliated with diverse community-based groups in King County-Seattle
  - To support the defining of transportation equity
  - To engage with one another and SDOT Transportation Equity Program staff
  - To develop community-guided suggestions for SDOT's Transportation Equity Agenda



<http://www.seattle.gov/transportation/projects-and-programs/programs/transportation-equity-program/equity-workgroup>

# Transportation Equity Workgroup Priorities

- Safety
- Transit access
- Economic development
- Land use, housing, and displacement
- Community engagement and participation
- Transparency and decision-making
- Mobility and transportation options
- Infrastructure, planning, and maintenance





# Timeline & Next Steps

Date	Activity
January 2019 - Present	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Launch SDOT Internal Transportation Equity team</li><li>• Continue recurring discussions with feedback from TEW</li></ul>
April 2019 – April 2020	<p>Transportation Equity Working Group</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Launch workgroup</li><li>• Complete onboarding: Professional Development Summit to learn more about SDOT functions, programs and divisions</li><li>• Engagement and agenda building</li><li>• Includes feedback loop with larger SDOT equity team (IDT)</li><li>• Develop and publish the Transportation Equity Agenda</li></ul>
June 2019 – June 2020	<p>Launch and evaluate ORCA Opportunity Pilot with SHA</p>
August/September 2019–January/February 2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Launch and evaluate Aging Adult with Human Services Department</li><li>• Launch and evaluate Ambassador Program with Youth-based Organizations</li></ul>



# Questions?

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[www.seattle.gov/transportation/transportationequity](http://www.seattle.gov/transportation/transportationequity)

