

ISLAND REGIONALTRANSPORTATION PLANNING ORGANIZATION

RESOLUTION NO. ____

A RESOLUTION, BY THE ISLAND REGIONALTRANSPORTATION PLANNING ORGANIZATION (IRTPO) TO ADOPT A TRANSPORTATION ELECTRIFICATION STRATEGY

RECITALS

WHEREAS, climate change is defined as a long-term shift in the average weather patterns that have come to define local, regional, and global climates due to sustained temperature alterations in a particular region or the planet as a whole; and

WHEREAS, the projected impacts of climate change to communities in Island County that are vulnerable to rising sea levels, strong coastal wind gusts, increasing temperature extremes, and changing rain and snowfall patterns; and

WHEREAS, it is imperative that Island County residents, private businesses, and local municipalities take action to mitigate the projected impacts of climate change by reducing carbon emissions and reliance on fossil fuels; and

WHEREAS, the transportation sector produces the most greenhouse gas emissions and significant reduction in vehicle emission is critical to mitigating the effects of climate change; and

WHEREAS, electric vehicles have been shown to produce less pollution; reduce fuel, maintenance, and operation costs; lower the total cost of ownership; and be more energy efficient than conventional gasoline-powered vehicles; and

WHEREAS, adoption of electric and/or renewable energy-dependent private and commercial vehicles, transit and school buses, and municipal fleets will bring environmental and economic benefits to Island County residents; and

WHEREAS, advances in the electromobility industry including battery performance and longevity, vehicle technologies, and charging infrastructure technologies have increased the availability of reliable electric vehicle (EV) options, shown sustained increases in EV ownership, and built a nationwide network of EV operational support; and

WHEREAS, state, local, and federal governments and regional agencies throughout the United States are adopting emission reduction and vehicle electrification targets, initiating programs, and updating and/or adopting building codes that ensure preparedness for electric vehicle charging infrastructure in homes, workplaces, and public parking facilities; and

WHEREAS, it is imperative that IRTPO member agencies adopt a set of reasonable goals and courses of action to increase electric vehicle adoption, charging station accessibility, and municipal fleet electrification; and

FURTHERMORE, Island County residents are increasingly favoring electric vehicles to reduce cost of ownership and help lower greenhouse gas emissions. These vehicles will require convenient, accessible public charging stations;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the IRTPO recognizes the critical nature of global warming and climate change, is cognizant of the actions being taken by governments and global organizations to increase EV adoption, and pledges to take steps to support the use of electric vehicles by private owners and municipal fleets; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the IRTPO supports the following potential actions for member agencies and other organizations within the Island region.

1. Adoption of a reasonable plan to incrementally increase the countywide proportion of private electric vehicle utilization that reflects Washington state's goal of electric vehicles comprising eight percent of all new vehicle sales by 2025;
2. Promotion of workplace electric vehicle charging and supporting temporary local tax exemptions or monetary benefits for businesses that provide charging facilities for employees;
3. Advertisement to increase public awareness of existing financial incentives supporting electrical vehicle purchase, such as federal vehicle tax credits, Washington state sales tax exemption on new/used electric vehicles, and low-interest electric vehicle purchase loans;
4. Consideration of electric vehicle-ready building codes for single family, multifamily, and commercial uses;
5. Adoption of a reasonable plan to incrementally increase the number of electric vehicles within a member agency's or organization's fleet;
6. Adoption of a reasonable goal to incrementally increase the proportion of electric or other zero-emissions buses, based on bus replacement cycles, mileage, and available models within a member agency's fleet;
7. Increase in State and Federal investments in charging stations and related infrastructure, as well as for the purchase of zero-emissions buses, supporting infrastructure, and the technical assistance needed to transition to an electric fleet.
8. Adoption of initiatives that will increase access to public charging stations through partnership with:
 - Electrical utilities (Puget Sound Energy and Snohomish County Public Utility District) to install, operate, and/or maintain public fast charging stations.
 - Local businesses, hotels, parks, tourist destinations, and other commercial businesses to install charging stations for customer use.
 - Local governments and other member entities.

- Financial institutions to support innovative financing programs such as low-interest revolving loan funds or “green” bonds.

Signed this 26th day of May, 2021.

APPROVED:



Commissioner Melanie Bacon, Chair
Island Regional Transportation Planning Organization