

Hello, my name is Jani Hitchen and I'm running for Pierce County Council in District 6.

What do you consider the most important transportation project in Pierce County at this time, and why?

I consider one of the most important projects that Pierce County could be working on, is the Rapid Transit, that the plan is to connect via rapid transit down Pacific Avenue into Downtown Tacoma where we have our train station and our bus routes that go into all of our further communities, and anything we can do to allow our community to access buses more frequently and consistently and safety I think would be a boon for our community.

Do you consider multi-modal transportation an important topic in Pierce County? Why or why not?

The question regarding multi-modal transportation, that's really important to me and I think it needs to go hand in hand with rapid transit. Along Pacific Avenue, we have sidewalks in most areas and there's bike lanes in some areas, but if we are actually going to reduce the number of stops, meaning people will have to travel further, we absolutely have to make sure that there are sidewalks and curb cuts so people with limited mobility can actually safely travel to these more frequently used bus stops. So, I think that the two need to be hand in hand.

I'd also like to make a plug for the thoroughfares that are some of our main thoroughfares through Pierce County, places like out in unincorporated, along Canyon, and along Meridian, and all the streets that run perpendicular to those, making sure that we have bike lanes, or sidewalks, or better yet- both, because if we can safely traverse to bus stops we will actually have people using our public transit.

Pierce Transit has considered going to the ballot to ask voters for a sales tax increase for public transportation funding. If Pierce Transit were to go to the ballot in 2021, would you support the measure? Why or Why not?

So, the last question is would I support the ballot measure for Pierce Transit, and I think in any other year I absolutely would be 100% behind it. I just want to make sure that when we get it on the ballot, that we have really looked at what this is going to do to our working people in our community and are they going to benefit. The one thing I like about doing taxes this way is that it actually goes across a large base, so it's a very small amount and we get such a great return, and it's a pretty consistent return so we can actually calculate it out and really know that money we're going to be able to work with. But we are in the middle of a pandemic, and so that's one of my worries, and so I think being fiscally responsible and making sure that I'm looking out for all people in my community is what I'm being elected to do.

So, I would support it, and would just wanna make sure that we've really done the math to make sure that it's not going to hurt our working families and the poor across our community.

And so, that's it. Thank you very much, Downtown On the Go, for inviting me to do this quick little video. If you want more information about me, please visit my website at electjanihitchen.com , or you can find me on Facebook, those kinds of things. So, stay safe, mask up everybody, and thanks for the time.