

Hey everyone, I'm Ryan Mello and I'm running for the Pierce County Council in District 4. I'm in my neighborhood, I live just down the street here from Wright Park, my favorite park in the city of Tacoma right on the 1 bus line. And again, running for District 4 on the Pierce County Council which represents all of Downtown Tacoma, Hilltop, Central Tacoma, South Tacoma, and all of Fircrest and University Place.

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

I consider the most important transportation project in Pierce County right now the expansion of light rail in the city of Tacoma and the extension of light rail from SeaTac Airport to Downtown Tacoma. I think connecting to the airport and to the rest of the central Puget Sound region is just incredibly important for our economy. Being connected to the international airport for business travel, for tourism is just really important for business connections, and also just folks getting around to run their daily life, to get to school, that sort of thing, and think it's gonna be a real game changer when we're gonna be connected by light rail like that.

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

I think multi-modal transportation is absolutely a very important topic in Pierce County. How we get around, and the kind of transportation that we create, it's a public health issue. Making sure we give people options to not just drive alone so they can live healthier, less expensive, and freer lives is super important, and it's really the way we're gonna facilitate growth long into the future, alright, we can't grow compactly and build the kind of vibrant communities that we want with everything between a 20 minutes if we don't have a transportation system that's multi-modal and works for everybody.

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, I certainly hope that Pierce Transit does get on the ballot in 2021. Getting on the ballot and utilizing our full revenue capacity, it is absolutely essential for us to get a transit system that is more equitable and a transit system that really works for more people. So, our headways right now are just too infrequent, bus stop especially too early or in the evenings, especially for folks who go to school later at night or folks who work into the evening, or just want to be out and about after 7. The bus stopping at 7, the bus not running on the weekends, coming only 30 minutes or an hour in so many parts of our service territory, right, really unacceptable for a 21st century modern community. So I'm all in to do my part to

make sure we can really grow the amount of service hours and really get the kind of Pierce Transit system that we all want, need, and deserve.

Again, Ryan Mello, Pierce County Council, I hope to have your vote. Thanks so much.