

**DRAFT RESOLUTION TO THE SEIU INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION, APRIL 2020 --  
EXPANDING AFFORDABLE AND ACCESSIBLE MASS TRANSIT.**

**WHEREAS**

"There is an urgent need to address the climate change crisis."  
(SEIU Resolution in support of the Green New Deal, 2019) AND

**WHEREAS**

"SEIU AGREES THAT A MASSIVE INFUSION OF PUBLIC INVESTMENT IN RESHAPING OUR ECONOMY AND STRENGTHENING OUR PUBLIC SECTOR IS NEEDED TO ADEQUATELY TACKLE THE DUAL CRISES OF CLIMATE CHANGE AND INEQUALITY."  
(Green New Deal Resolution) AND

**WHEREAS**

"As one of the largest organizations of working people, the majority of whom are people of color, and as residents of communities hardest hit by environmental abuse and climate change, we are uniquely positioned to contribute to building a wider movement that creates fundamental change in our economic and political systems to win economic, racial, immigrant, gender and LGBTIQ equality and environmental justice."  
(SEIU Convention Resolution 108A, Environmental Justice for Working People, 2016) AND

**WHEREAS**

Mobile sources such as cars and trucks contribute up to 90% of the pollution in California and other regions.  
(EPA.gov Fact Sheet)

**WHEREAS**

Recent studies have found that air pollution not only triggers asthma, but can actually cause asthma, and by the time children graduate from high school, there is a five-fold increase in the rates of abnormal lung function from the cleanest communities to those most impacted by pollution, AND

**WHEREAS**

Public transit reduces CO2 emissions by 37 million metric tons annually and reduces energy consumption per year as much as 4.2 billion gallons of gasoline -- an amount equivalent to 320 million cars filling up almost 900,000 times per day.  
(The American Public Transportation Association, Public Transportation Benefits), AND

**WHEREAS**

Employer-paid rideshare subsidies typically reduce single occupancy vehicle commute trips by up to 20%.  
(Transportation Research Board, National Research Council, TCRP Report 107), AND

**WHEREAS**

A massive expansion of public transit, focusing on electric buses and trains, access and cost savings, will generate hundreds of thousands of new union green jobs, AND

**WHEREAS**

SEIU Local 721 has supported "developing collective bargaining goals and campaigns around environmental justice, major funding for incentives for mass transit and other alternatives to driving alone, workplace and neighborhood health and safety, clean energy, and ensuring member education and mobilization in support of these goals as part of the broader contract campaigns."

(Submitted by the Environmental Justice Action Team, October 5, 2017) AND

**WHEREAS**

"Public transit is a civil right and fundamental to climate action."  
(Labor Network for Sustainability, 2020 Virtual Convergence) AND

**WHEREAS**

Fare-free transit is receiving growing support in communities across the country.  
(New York Times, January 16, 2020, P. A10), AND

**WHEREAS**

" . . . . . advocates around the country are increasingly arguing that public transit should be free. Affordable transportation, they argue, is key to helping people get to school, jobs and opportunities to help them escape poverty. It's good for the planet too, as more people choose to ride transit rather than drive, which reduces greenhouse gas emissions responsible for climate change . . . "

(Los Angeles Times Editorial, January 23, 2020).

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**

THAT SEIU will strongly support the expansion of mass transit nationally and in every region, through legislation and collective bargaining, and including reduced fares, with the goal of free transit, and that SEIU will prioritize supporting the expansion through removing subsidies to fossil fuel corporations, for progressive tax reform and other sustainable and progressive measures.