

INITIATIVE-2117

IMPACT ON WTA

A “yes” vote on Initiative 2117 would repeal the 2021 Climate Commitment Act (CCA). The CCA was enacted to help mitigate climate change in Washington State by reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

The CCA helps fund “Move Ahead Washington,” a legislative package that allocates \$3 billion for public transportation over 16 years. We are now in year two, with 14 years remaining.

How much funding would WTA lose if the Climate Commitment Act is repealed through a “yes” vote on I-2117?

- **\$1.6 million per year** for paratransit serving elderly riders and riders with disabilities
- **\$3.3 million per year** in general operating funds
- **\$5 million** for the expansion of Bellingham Station in downtown Bellingham, planned for 2027–2029

October 2024

Initiative Measure No.

2117

This measure would prohibit state agencies from imposing any type of carbon tax credit trading, and repeal legislation establishing a cap and invest program to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. This measure would decrease funding for investments in transportation, clean air, renewable energy, conservation, and emissions-reduction.

Should this measure be enacted into law?

☐ Yes

☐ No

If the Climate Commitment Act is repealed through a “yes” vote on I-2117, WTA would lose \$73.6 million over the next 14 years.

(\$4.9 million per year, plus \$5 million in 2027-2029)

In addition, funding from several state grant programs would likely be reduced or eliminated. These include the Green Transportation Grant and Bus and Bus Facilities Grants, both of which have funded WTA projects in the past.

How would losing \$73.6 million impact WTA?

WTA's Board of Directors would ultimately decide what programs and services to cut.

Potential impacts include:

- **Eliminating Sunday bus service** throughout Whatcom County.
- **Eliminating bus service to Bellingham's Waterfront**
- **Canceling a planned expansion of bus service** proposed for 2025
- **Postponing efforts to reduce carbon emissions** through low- or no-emission vehicles, solar power, and other initiatives.
- **Postponing the expansion of Bellingham Station**, which would allow for more frequent bus service and the addition of bus charging infrastructure. The expansion also includes plans for mixed income housing, amenities for walking and biking, and other services.

The cuts above would not be enough to make up \$4.9 million per year in lost revenue. WTA would need to find additional programs or services to cut.



To learn more, visit
<https://engage.ridewta.com/i-2117>



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