



King County

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King County Executive

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October 25, 2023

The Honorable Dave Upthegrove
Chair, King County Council
Room 1200
C O U R T H O U S E

Dear Councilmember Upthegrove:

As required by Ordinance 17143, and amended by Ordinance 17597 and Ordinance 19367, this letter transmits to the King County Council the King County Metro Transit 2023 System Evaluation and a proposed Motion that, if enacted, would accept the 2023 System Evaluation.

The System Evaluation helps the Metro Transit Department (Metro) plan and manage the transit system and let the public see the basis of proposals to expand, reduce, or revise service. The 2023 System Evaluation is based on Spring 2023 service change data (March – June 2023) and identifies systemwide needs for investment in three priorities: crowding, reliability, and service growth. It calls for zero hours to relieve crowding, 31,050 hours to improve reliability, and 1,689,900 hours to support service growth and restore suspended service along major transit routes. The service growth investments would be phased over time to help Metro reach the long-range planning targets envisioned in the Metro Connects interim network.

This report uses the Service Guidelines, which were recently updated in 2021. It includes a detailed analysis of Metro's fixed route system and a RapidRide Progress Report. The System Evaluation also includes information about Metro Flex services, in response to the Motion 13736 requirement for an annual progress report on the King County Metro Transit Five-Year Implementation Plan for Alternatives to Traditional Transit Service Delivery. The 2023 System Evaluation reports on the status of existing Metro Flex services and potential locations for new pilot programs and services. The report also evaluates King County Water Taxi services, in compliance with Ordinance 18413.

The 2023 System Evaluation includes a section highlighting major system changes and impacts to service across the system. Although Metro's ridership continues to recover, workforce shortages and fleet availability are constraining service growth. As a result, many routes during the current evaluation period are still partially suspended and experiencing unplanned trip

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Metro Connects, Metro's long-range plan, is a bold step in defining the region's future public transportation needs. Approximately 3.6 million additional service hours are needed to achieve the Metro Connects 2050 vision, which is aligned with the Puget Sound Regional Council's Transportation 2050 plan and integrated with Sound Transit's expansion plans. The System Evaluation assesses Metro Connects' progress and performance metrics.

The report shows how Metro supports goals in the 2016-2022 Equity and Social Justice Strategic Plan by evaluating service growth in terms of social equity, land use, and geographic value. The report also shows how Metro supports the King County Strategic Climate Action Plan goals. It illustrates how Metro is encouraging transit use, improving the reliability and efficiency of transit service, and reducing the need for driving by investing resources where public transportation needs are greatest.

Thank you for your consideration of this evaluation and proposed Motion.

If your staff have questions, please contact Christina O'Claire, Mobility Division Director, Metro Transit Department, at 206-477-5801.

Sincerely,



for

Dow Constantine
King County Executive

Enclosure

cc: King County Councilmembers
 ATTN: Stephanie Cirkovich, Chief of Staff
 Melani Hay, Clerk of the Council
Karan Gill, Chief of Staff, Office of the Executive
Penny Lipsou, Council Relations Director, Office of the Executive
Michelle Allison, General Manager, Metro Transit Department (MTD)
Christina O'Claire, Director, Mobility Division, MTD