

# King County Regional Transit Safety Task Force Briefing to Regional Transit Committee

November 19, 2025



KING COUNTY  
**REGIONAL**  
TRANSIT SAFETY  
**TASK FORCE**



**LEONE**  
SOLUTIONS  
GROUP



## **Overview & Task Force Recommendations**

[Ashley Street & Sacha Taylor](#), Leone Solutions Group

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## **Metro Safety Priorities**

[DeAnna Martin](#), King County Metro

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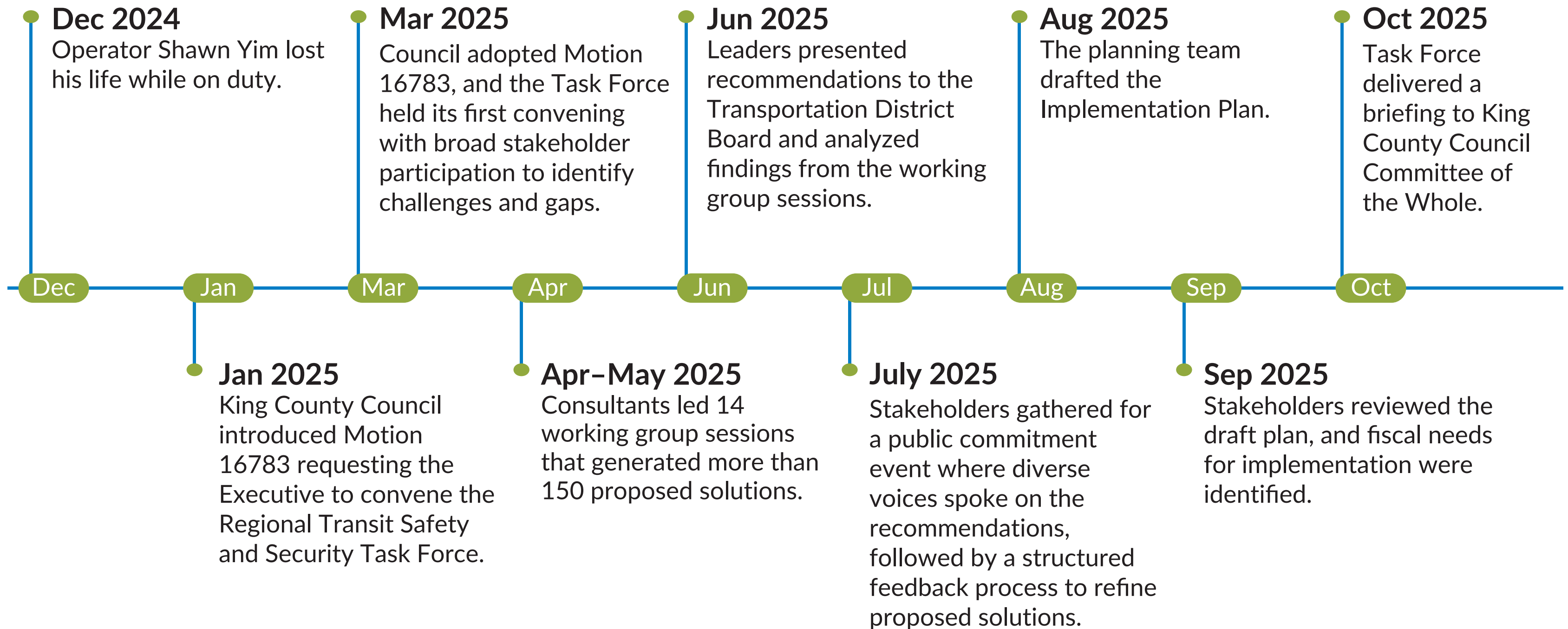
## **Operator and Transit Employees Perspectives**

[Greg Woodfill](#), Amalgamated Transit Union (ATU)

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# **Briefing Overview**

# Task Force Progress



# Task Force Overview

Motion 16783 required the Task Force to convene a broad membership, engage stakeholders, and develop a work plan addressing operator safety, accountability, interagency coordination, and response times.

Over the past nine months, this motion was fulfilled through regional collaboration and robust engagement. The recommendations presented today were driven by those closest to the issues, ensuring practical and actionable solutions.

**2** stakeholder events with 250+ attendees



**25** cities provided input



**20+** meetings, base visits, and presentations



**110+** organizations and agencies participated

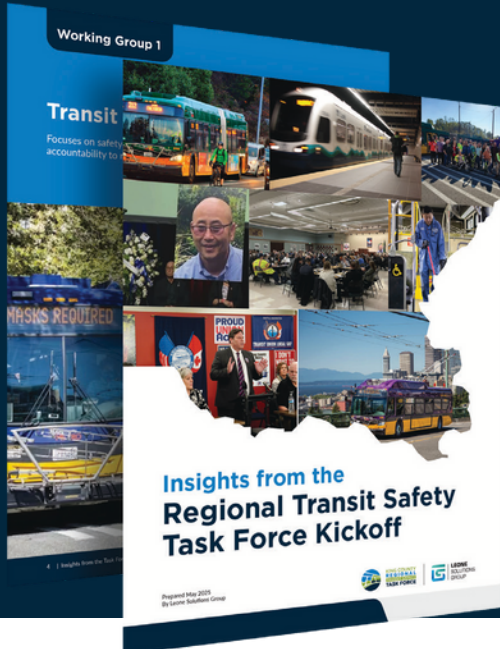


**14** working sessions



**150** solutions organized into 30+ workstreams

# Task Force Publications



**Insights from the Kickoff**  
Summarizes the gaps, challenges, and ideas raised by 120+ stakeholders at the Task Force launch.



**Recommended Solutions in Review**  
Consolidates more than 150 proposed solutions into categories for evaluation and refinement.



**Focus Session Guides**  
Fifteen detailed guides capturing small-group discussions, priorities, and solution brainstorming across key safety themes.



**Implementation Plan**  
Translates solutions into initiatives, workstreams, and actions with timelines and responsibilities.



# Finding & Recommendations

# Critical Gaps

The Task Force identified critical challenges that must be addressed to restore safety, rebuild trust, and ensure consistent accountability across King County's transit system.

|                                                                                                                      |                                                                                                                 |                                                                                                                                        |                                                                                                                                                                                            |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|                                                                                                                      | <b>Fragmented Emergency Response Infrastructure</b> <p>"Emergency response depends on what city you're in."</p> | <b>Inconsistent Enforcement &amp; Lack of Clear Rider Rules</b> <p>"It feels like there are no rules anymore on buses and trains."</p> | <b>Drug Use &amp; Behavioral Health Crises on Transit</b> <p>"Transit is where all other broken systems land... we expect people who don't have training to fill in the gaps."</p>         |
| <b>Staffing Shortages Across Safety Roles</b> <p>"We're stretched thin across the board. Everyone is stretched."</p> | <b>Unsafe and Neglected Transit Environments</b> <p>"If it looks abandoned, people treat it that way."</p>      | <b>Broken Communication &amp; Reporting Systems</b> <p>"You file a report and never hear about it again."</p>                          | <b>Fragmented and Inconsistent Safety Data</b> <p>"Where is the cross collaborative data between jurisdictions and agencies? Transit is everywhere and crosses county and city lines."</p> |



# Task Force Initiatives

In-depth stakeholder engagement has yielded 6 top priority areas that are addressed in the Regional Transit Safety Implementation Plan.

## Regional Alignment Focus

- » Regional Coordination & Alignment
- » Regional Responder & Outreach Staffing

## Transit Agency Focus

- » Field Staffing & Operator Support
- » Workforce Training & Support
- » Safe Transit Environments
- » Employee & Rider Reporting Systems

# Implementation Plan

In line with Motion 16783, the Task Force developed a focused plan, organized into six initiative areas with supporting workstreams to guide regional safety solutions.

## Regional Alignment Focused Initiatives

### Regional Coordination & Alignment

#### Workstreams

- Regional Alignment of Incident Response ★
- Regionwide Code of Conduct Alignment ★
- Site-specific Safety Strategies ★
- Alternative Response and Regional Response Infrastructure ★
- Non-Enforcement Crisis Pathway ★
- Outreach Mobility & Vehicle Support ★
- Interagency Governance and Coordination
- Regional Exclusion Policy Alignment
- Cross-System Legal Accountability for Transit Incidents
- Legislative Alignment on Firearms and Worker Protections
- Youth-Focused Outreach at High-Incident Locations

### Regional Responder & Outreach Staffing

#### Workstreams

- Transit Security Presence ★
- Non-Enforcement Crisis Staffing ★

# Transit Safety Focused Initiatives

## Transit Employee & Rider Reporting

### Workstreams

- Operator Incident Reporting ★
- Operator Access at Bases ★
- Incident Follow-Up Protocols
- Reporting Outcome Visibility
- Rider Reporting Education
- Rider Reporting Access

## Safe Transit Environments

### Workstreams

- Bus Partitions Installation ★
- Station & Stop Lighting and Visibility
- Station and Stop Issue Reporting
- Community Activation and Stewardship
- Site-Specific Design Improvements for High-Incident Zones

## Operator Training and Support

### Workstreams

- Operator Briefings & Communication ★
- Ongoing Training & Specialized Education ★
- Training Space Expansion ★
- New Operator Training & Onboarding ★
- Critical Incident Protocol ★
- Peer, Mentorship & Night Shift Support ★
- Job Aids, Guides & Operator-Facing Materials ★
- Control Center Support ★
- Supervisor, Chief, & Superintendents Training & Support
- Wellness & Trauma Recovery Support
- Support for Legal Proceedings
- Security Specific Training
- Operations Policy Updates
- Post-Incident Operator Safeguards

## Field Staffing & Support

### Workstreams

- Field Operations and Backend Resource ★



## **PLAN ACTIVITIES - LOCAL JURISDICTIONS**

### **Emergency Response & Public Safety Protocols**

Cities are part of creating countywide infrastructure so that transit incidents are responded to quickly and appropriately. This means working together to put in place clear standards, defined roles, and consistent coordination so no matter where an incident happens, riders and operators can trust they will get the right response.

- Establish MOUs and protocols to ensure consistent responses across jurisdictions and transit agencies and create better coordination of resources.
- Adopt consistent fire/EMS entry standards so first responders can safely and quickly access transit scenes without delays or confusion.
- Designate a local safety contact so Metro, Sound Transit, and other partners have a clear city counterpart when safety issues arise.
- Implement and honor regional exclusion and information-sharing policies (with equity safeguards) so individuals causing repeated safety issues are consistently managed across jurisdictions.



## **PLAN ACTIVITIES - LOCAL JURISDICTIONS**

### **Accountability & Community Partnerships**

Cities are part of building systems that combine accountability with care. Their role is to align courts, prosecutors, youth programs, and community providers so repeat issues on transit are reduced through consistent enforcement and supportive alternatives.

- Participate in a regional Code of Conduct campaign with consistent enforcement across cities.

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- Coordinate prosecutors and courts to prioritize transit-related offenses and track post-arrest outcomes.

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- Support creation of community court models that emphasize accountability, diversion, and resource connection.

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- Partner with long-term case management programs such as LEAD to reduce repeat incidents.

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- Formalize partnerships with behavioral health providers, CBOs, and youth outreach teams working near transit.



## **PLAN ACTIVITIES - LOCAL JURISDICTIONS**

### **Transit Environment & Community Activation**

Cities take part in shaping transit spaces by improving the public areas they control, such as streets, sidewalks, lighting, zoning, and community programs. Their role is to work alongside transit agencies to make the spaces around stops and stations safer, more welcoming, and more actively used.

- Coordinate with transit agencies and WSDOT on CPTED assessments to address issues like lighting, vegetation, and sidewalks in shared and city-owned spaces.
- Expand art and beautification programs in partnership with local artists, schools, and community groups.
- Support pop-up vendor activations by adjusting permitting or zoning to allow small businesses and local entrepreneurs at transit hubs.
- Invest in lighting, crosswalks, stairwells, and other design improvements under city ownership.
- Grow community stewardship programs such as adopt-a-stop or neighborhood watch partnerships.



## **PLAN ACTIVITIES - LOCAL JURISDICTIONS**

### **Community Safety & Data**

Cities are part of building a consistent, regionwide approach to safety data so agencies can respond in the same way, track outcomes reliably, and show the public that the system is working. Their role is to adopt shared standards, share local data, and commit to transparent reporting.

- Adopt standardized incident definitions so police, prosecutors, and dispatch classify incidents consistently across jurisdictions.

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- Participate in cross-agency data sharing systems that connect city police, courts, and transit agencies.

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- Provide outcome data on prosecutions, diversions, and resolutions to build a full regional picture.

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- Use unified reporting tools alongside Metro and Sound Transit so incidents are captured the same way everywhere.

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- Support transparency dashboards that allow residents and stakeholders to see safety and accountability results.

# Task Force Next Steps



# Next Steps



With Motion 16783 fulfilled and the Implementation Plan complete, the next steps focus on launching the Implementation Review Group, coordinating agencies to begin implementation, sequencing activities by timeline, and reporting back to Council to ensure progress.

## Develop Detailed Transit Safety Action Plan

- Ensure that identified gaps and challenges are being advanced through near-term actions, planned for future years, or documented as resolved.

- **Report Progress**  
Provide regular updates to Council and Task Force stakeholders.

- **Establish Task Force Oversight Body**  
Draft and ratify a charter to launch the governance body that will oversee implementation and ensure accountability.

- **Coordinate Across Agencies and Jurisdictions**  
Establish and facilitate regional working groups for each regional-focused workstream in coordination with the Oversight Body.