

Budget Status of Transit Safety Task Force’s Proposed Investments for King County

October 9, 2025

Item Description	Budget Status	Budget Total	One-Time or Recurring	Notes	
Regional Coordination & Alignment					
Regional Alignment of Incidence Response					
Interagency Response Infrastructure	Establish regional response infrastructure with MOUs and unified protocols across Metro, Sound Transit, police, fire, EMS, and local jurisdictions, defining roles and escalation standards for all incidents, including low-level events.	✓	Part of baseline budget	One-Time	Metro’s baseline budget can support planning and execution. Requires buy-in and resources from regional partners.
Centralized Safety Data Platform	Build a centralized platform that integrates incident reports and 911 data across all transit agencies, standardizes entry, provides real-time access, and enables cross-jurisdictional, location-specific safety response.	→	Not currently budgeted	One-Time	Estimated cost: \$1-10M Council should consider appropriate owner for this body of work.
Regionwide Code of Conduct Alignment					
Regional Code of Conduct Campaign	Develop and launch a unified Code of Conduct campaign across all regional transit agencies, including standardized signage and public education.	✓	Part of baseline budget	One-Time	Metro’s baseline budget can support planning. Execution costs TBD.
Site-Specific Safety Strategies					
Priority Area Identification	Use existing technologies and heat maps to proactively identify safety priority zones and target resources accordingly. Include all frontline workers (operators, supervisors, maintenance, facilities, operators) in the data reporting process.	✓	Part of baseline budget	Recurring	Metro’s baseline budget can support planning and execution. May require FTE to manage.
Site-Based Safety Pilot Expansion	Expand successful safety pilots like those at 3rd & Main and Burien Transit Center to other identified priority zones.	→	Not currently budgeted	Recurring	Planning and execution costs TBD.
Location-Specific Incident Reporting	Improve data collection systems to capture incident details at specific stops, stations, and intersections rather than only along routes to enable more precise location-based analysis and response.	✓	Part of baseline budget	One-Time	Metro’s baseline budget can support planning and execution.
Alternative Response and Regional Response Infrastructure					
Outreach Team Hours and Coverage	Expand outreach services beyond daytime shifts (e.g Burien Transit Center) to include nights, weekends, and additional high-need locations. Operators and officers noted frequent incidents during overnight hours without available behavioral health support.	↑	Part of \$11M budget request	One-Time	Metro’s requested funding supports existing behavioral health support services but does not provide resources for expansion.

Based on the King County Proposed Investments table from the Transit Safety Task Force ([link](#))

Item Description		Budget Status	Budget Total	One-Time or Recurring	Notes
Co-Response Models	Increase deployments where behavioral health professionals accompany law enforcement or transit security to certain incidents. This supports de-escalation and better outcomes in high-risk situations.	↑	Part of \$11M budget request	One-Time	Metro's requested SaFE Reform budget can support planning. Execution costs TBD.
Pre-Booking Diversions	Expand pre-booking diversions partnership to increase referrals and service connections for frequent offenders with behavioral health or substance issues.	→	Not currently budgeted	Recurring	Planning and execution costs TBD. May require non-Metro owner and additional funding.
Regional Outreach Data Infrastructure	Create a centralized regional database to track outreach interactions and outcomes, using data to secure resources, identify service gaps, and guide outreach and housing team deployment.	→	Not currently budgeted	Recurring	Planning and execution costs TBD. Council should consider appropriate owner for this body of work.
Regional Coalition	Establish a formal regional coordination framework through MOUs and regular convenings that align transit agencies, outreach providers, housing agencies, and behavioral health services.	✓	Part of baseline budget	One-Time	Metro's baseline budget can support planning. Execution costs TBD. Requires buy-in and funding from regional partners.
Alternative Response and Regional Response Infrastructure					
Outreach Transport Vehicle Resources	Acquire and deploy designated vehicles (e.g., retrofitted buses or vans) for outreach and placement activities, providing safe, dedicated transport to shelters, housing sites, and safe spaces for riders in crisis.	↑	Part of \$11M budget request	One-Time	Metro's requested SaFE Reform budget can support planning and execution.
Outreach Teams Mobility	Transition behavioral health outreach teams from being stationed only at hubs like Burien Transit Center to being mobile across the system. Equip them with vehicles to reach high priority locations and high-risk lines.	↑	Part of \$11M budget request	One-Time	Metro's requested SaFE Reform budget can support planning and execution.
Regional Responder & Outreach Staffing					
Transit Security Staffing					
Transit Resource Officer Unit	Expand Transit Resource Officer Unit - Transit Police Outreach Unit and contracted security provider outreach teams to increase coverage, including after-hours and weekend response.	↑	Part of \$32M budget request	Recurring and One-Time	Metro's proposed 2026-2027 budget will provide for 275 contracted TSOs
Non-Enforcement Crisis Staffing					
KC Outreach Groups	Expand County-led and partner outreach teams to provide broader non-enforcement coverage on transit, including after-hours. Focus on connecting unhoused riders to housing, behavioral health, and essential services with faster, more coordinated support.	→	Not currently budgeted	Recurring	Planning and execution costs TBD. Requires buy-in and funding from regional partners.
Long-Term Case Management	Secure funding and partnerships to expand long-term case management program. This ensures ongoing support after the initial crisis response to reduce repeat incidents on transit.	→	Not currently budgeted	Recurring	Planning and execution costs TBD. Requires buy-in and funding from regional partners.

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Item Description	Budget Status	Budget Total	One-Time or Recurring	Notes
Co-Response Models Increase deployments where behavioral health professionals accompany law enforcement or transit security to certain incidents.	→	Not currently budgeted	Recurring	Estimated costs: \$5-10M Requires buy-in and funding from regional partners.
Field Staffing & Support				
Field Operations and Backend Resources				
First Line Supervisor Staffing Increase Increase field supervisor staffing to improve incident response capability, reduce response times, and avoid coverage gaps, especially during security incidents requiring multiple supervisors.	✓	Included in baseline budget	Recurring	Baseline budget allows for moderate increase. Additional budget resources could enhance impact.
Field Safety Review Staffing Assess current staffing dedicated to field safety reviews, design assessments, and security monitoring, and determine whether additional resources are needed to support a more proactive and sustained focus on built environment safety.	→	Not currently budgeted	Recurring	Planning and execution costs TBD.
Resource Support for Implementation and Technology Allocate additional resources to support Safety & Security technology and analytics roles and prioritize backend system improvements, where support is most urgently needed to ensure successful implementation and functionality.	→	Not currently budgeted	Recurring	Planning and execution costs TBD.
Transit Employee & Rider Reporting				
Operator Incident Reporting				
On-Vehicle Operator Reporting Tools Deploy operator tools for quick, safe in-service incident reporting, including DDU buttons, tablets, and potential future integration of mobile apps	↑	\$7M	One-Time	Metro's CoPilot upgrade proposed for all coaches (Project 1150692)
Rider Reporting Education				
Rider Reporting Education Campaign Launch a coordinated campaign using digital ads, social media, signage, operator announcements, and vehicle materials to raise awareness of reporting options and what riders can expect after reporting."	✓	Included in baseline budget	One-Time	Metro's baseline budget can support planning. Execution costs TBD.
Rider Reporting Access				
Create Unified Reporting App Design, develop, and launch a unified regional app or digital tool that allows riders to report issues silently and in real time using photos, location data, and QR codes displayed on vehicles and in stations.	↑	\$9M	One-Time	Proposed by Metro for 2026-2027 (Project 1150686)

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Item Description	Budget Status	Budget Total	One-Time or Recurring	Notes	
Safe Transit Environments					
Community Activation & Stewardship					
Community-Led Transit Space Activation	Offer modest grants and partnerships to community groups to organize clean-up, beautification, and stewardship activities at stations and stops, fostering community ownership and improving perceived and actual safety.	✓	Part of \$11M budget request	One-Time	Metro's requested SaFE Reform budget can support planning and execution.
Bus Partitions Installation					
Operator Protection Infrastructure	Retrofit existing buses with operator partitions and complete installation of protective barriers on new buses to reduce operator exposure to assaults and threatening behaviors, based on rising assault trends and peer system best practices.	✓	\$20M	One-Time	Funded in 2025 omnibus (Ord 19956); expected to be fully installed by Dec 2026
Site-Specific Design Improvements for High-Incident Zones					
Recurring Station and Stop Safety Inspections	Implement structured, recurring station and stop safety inspections to proactively identify and resolve maintenance and security issues, ensuring consistent upkeep and rapid response to emerging risks.	→	Not currently budgeted	Recurring	Planning and execution costs TBD.
Ongoing Implementation					
Consultant Support for Governance Body, Oversight, and Accountability					
Consultant Support	Ongoing consultant support to drive execution of the Implementation Plan across agencies and workstreams, staff the Implementation Review Group, assist in development and execution of deliverables, track milestones, develop reporting, and engage stakeholders	→	Not currently budgeted	One-Time	Consultant to develop proposed work scope and budget alternatives to present to Metro for procurement process