



KING COUNTY

1200 King County Courthouse
516 Third Avenue
Seattle, WA 98104

Signature Report

May 3, 2010

Motion 13213

Proposed No. 2010-0256.2

Sponsors Gossett

1 A MOTION approving the 2010 work program for the
2 regional transit committee.

3 WHEREAS, the regional transit committee of the King County council is
4 established by the King County charter to develop, propose, review and recommend
5 action on ordinances and motions adopting, repealing or amending countywide transit
6 policies and plans, and

7 WHEREAS, the regional transit committee annually develops a work program in
8 consultation with the King County Metro transit division, and

9 WHEREAS, the committee strives to develop and carry out a work program that
10 reflects the priorities of the executive, the council and the cities of King County;

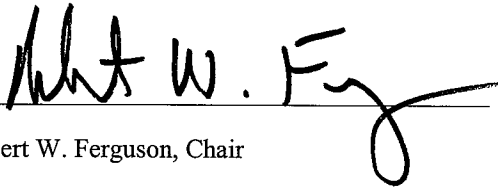
11 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT MOVED by the Council of King County:

12 The 2010 work program for the regional transit committee, Attachment A to this
13 motion, is hereby approved.
14

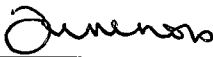
Motion 13213 was introduced on 4/12/2010 and passed by the Metropolitan King
County Council on 5/3/2010, by the following vote:

Yes: 9 - Ms. Drago, Mr. Phillips, Mr. von Reichbauer, Mr. Gossett,
Ms. Hague, Ms. Patterson, Ms. Lambert, Mr. Ferguson and Mr. Dunn
No: 0
Excused: 0

KING COUNTY COUNCIL
KING COUNTY, WASHINGTON


Robert W. Ferguson, Chair

ATTEST:



Anne Noris, Clerk of the Council

Attachments: A. Regional Transit Committee 2010 Work Program, dated April 21, 2010

REGIONAL TRANSIT COMMITTEE

2010 WORK PROGRAM

The Regional Transit Committee is committed to being accountable to the residents of King County and strives to ensure that the best possible transit service is provided, especially to those who are most dependent on public transportation for their essential mobility.

FIRST QUARTER

Transit Security At its February meeting, the committee was briefed on the January 28th transit tunnel assault and the Transit Division's response to-date. The committee will receive updates on that response as part of a broader transit security discussion later in the year.

Transit Audit Consultants and staff from the King County Auditor's Office completed a performance audit of the Transit Division in 2009, presenting their findings and recommendations to the RTC at its September meeting. In adopting the 2010/2011 Transit Budget, the council set aside \$350,000 for a follow-up audit in 2010. At its March meeting the committee was briefed on implementation of the 2009 audit recommendations and the scope and timeline of the 2010 audit. The Transit Division will report quarterly on the status of its work to follow up on the recommendations in the 2009 audit and the auditor will present the 2010 audit findings and recommendations to the committee in the third or fourth quarter.

Fare Evasion The council added a proviso to the 2010/2011 Transit Budget related to the problem of fare evasion on Metro buses. The proviso directs the Transit Division to partner with its transit operators to gather fare evasion data, and then estimate its costs and report on strategies to address it by April 30th. In anticipation of that report, the committee was briefed at its March meeting on the design of the data-gathering phase of the project.

Transit Stakeholder Task Force The committee was briefed on the task force structure and process in advance of the March task force meeting.

SECOND QUARTER

Year-End Report The Transit General Manager will present his annual report in April and will periodically report on farebox and sales tax revenues throughout the year as well.

Transit Stakeholder Task Force A 28-member task force has been convened to "consider a policy framework to guide the growth and, if necessary, the contraction of King County Metro Transit's system." Materials prepared for task force meetings will be simultaneously provided to RTC members and the committee will get monthly reports on the work of the task force from:

- the RTC Chair who is a Task Force Executive Committee alternate,
- the Transit General Manager who is a non-voting member of the task force, and
- those RTC members who are also task force members.

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Transit Advisory Committee/Accessible Services Advisory Committee 2010 Work Plan Implementing an executive initiative in the 2010/2011 KCDOT Director's Office Budget, the TAC and ASAC will be merged in 2010. The committee will be briefed on the merged body's 2010 work plan.

Fare Goals and Policies The 2009 Transit Audit included a recommendation that the Transit Division should,

develop and propose fare policy goals to the Regional Transit Committee and the King County Council that are clearly tied to the Transit Strategic Plan and are representative of Transit's agency-wide goals and objectives. These goals should be used as the basis for making fare policy decisions.

In addition, a budget proviso calls for the Transit Division to work with Sound Transit, and possibly other transit agencies to address the disparity in certain discounted fare categories and recommend changes to fare policies or fares.

Action on a major update of the Transit Strategic Plan has been delayed for the past two years by the Transit Division's financial problems and, now that a stakeholder task force has been created and charged with recommending a transit policy framework by September 2010, the strategic plan will not be updated until 2011. In order to proceed later this year with updating the fare goals and policies initiated by the audit and 2010 Transit Budget provisos, the committee will consider setting near-term fare goals with the understanding that 2011 revisions may be needed in response to the task force recommendations.

Rapid Ride Implementation King County Metro's first bus rapid transit service, with associated capital elements, will begin in the fall of 2010 on Pacific Highway South. Start up of other BRT routes is planned for 2011 through 2013 and the committee will be briefed on the status of these implementation efforts.

Fare Evasion The committee will review the fare evasion report (to be submitted to the Council by April 30th), discuss fare collection "best practices" and consider strategies to address fare evasion.

Alaskan Way Viaduct Project Mitigation In conjunction with the 2010 start of construction to replace the south end of the Alaskan Way Viaduct, WSDOT will fund transit-related mitigation measures to address traffic impacts. These will include additional service on five Metro bus routes, promotion of rideshare and other commute alternatives and monitoring the project's impact on transit service. The committee will receive periodic briefings on the effectiveness of these mitigation measures.

Transit Security The committee developed the original set of transit security policies adopted by the council in 2003 and has considered various aspects of transit security since then. While the trend in incidents and assaults has generally been positive, rider and operator safety concerns persist and the recent assault in the transit tunnel highlighted a new area of concern. In light of the deferral, due to budgetary constraints, of planned 2010 investments in more Transit Police, the committee will consider how existing forces are deployed as well as the role of city police agencies in providing security on-board as well as at transit facilities such as park-and-ride lots and transit centers. The committee will be briefed also on what is being done to address security issues at transit facilities and on high-incident routes.

South Park Bridge Closure Several transit routes will be affected by the planned June 2010 closure of the bridge due to concerns over its structural integrity. The committee will be briefed on the Transit Division's plans to adjust those routes and the effect on riders.

THIRD QUARTER

SR 520 Urban Partnership In conjunction with plans to apply tolls in the SR 520 corridor, additional service will be added to existing routes beginning in September 2010. The committee will be briefed how the new service will complement existing service.

Route Scheduling Efficiencies The 2009 Transit Performance Audit recommended that the Transit Division expand its use of scheduling software to better utilize its buses and operators. Beginning with the February 2010 service change Metro schedulers have been applying the new scheduling techniques to several routes to gauge the potential savings and impacts on riders. Once the Transit Division has gathered and analyzed the data on these initial applications, the committee will be briefed on the results to-date.

Service Change Update The committee will be briefed on results of the September 2009 and February 2010 service changes in which Metro transit service was restructured in conjunction with the start-up of Link Light Rail service. Bus riders in south King County and southeast Seattle were affected when routes were modified to serve light rail stations or eliminated to avoid duplication of light rail service.

Financial Policies Past RTC work programs have included an annual review of the Transit Division's Financial Policies intended to guide development of the Transit Budget and CIP proposal for the following year. With the recent shift to a biennial budget for the Transit Division, annual RTC review may no longer be needed but in the third quarter of 2010, the Transit Division proposes to implement the following 2009 Transit Audit recommendation:

“Transit should propose updated financial policies; particularly those related to sales tax distribution and cost growth for consideration by the Regional Transit Committee and the King County Council.”

Fare Goals and Policies (con't) The 2009 Transit Performance Audit included a number of fare-related recommendations which the Transit Division expects to complete in third or fourth quarters of 2010. The auditors recommended that the Transit Division:

- re-define and monitor a target farebox recovery ratio;
- consider fare policy changes to generate additional revenue;
- update and document the formula used to determine the City of Seattle's payment for the ride free area, and
- report on the implications of raising ACCESS fares to the maximum allowable under the ADA and state law.

FOURTH QUARTER

Transit Now Service Investments As part the effort to close a structural gap in the 2010/2011 Transit Budget, the council approved an RTC-recommended amendment to the service

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investment phasing established in the Transit Strategic Plan. Further investment in two categories of Transit Now service was suspended indefinitely in response to lower-than-projected sales tax revenues. A budget proviso requires the executive to transmit an amendment to the Transit Strategic Plan, which the RTC will review, to “show when transit revenues are projected to recover sufficiently to allow resumption” of those investments.

Transit Stakeholder Task Force

The committee will review the task force’s recommended policies and strategies for future growth, or contraction, of the transit system. The submittal target is September and, depending on the nature of the recommendations, the committee may propose policy changes at that time or await the transmittal of executive-proposed plan updates in December, as envisioned in the budget proviso that initiated the task force.

Transit Comprehensive Plan & Transit Strategic Plan The proviso initiating the Transit Stakeholder Task Force calls for the executive to transmit by December 15th “an ordinance amending the Transit Comprehensive Plan and Transit Strategic Plan” taking into consideration the task force recommendations. The committee may have an initial briefing on the proposals in December in preparation for deliberations in 2011.