



King County

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King County Executive

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October 27, 2022

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

Dear Councilmember Balducci:

As required by Ordinance 17143, which was amended by Ordinance 17597 and Ordinance 19367, this letter transmits to the King County Council the *King County Metro Transit 2022 System Evaluation* report and a proposed Motion that would, if enacted, accept the report.

Each year, the *System Evaluation* helps Metro plan and manage the transit system and display the basis of proposals to expand, reduce, or revise service. The 2022 *System Evaluation* is based on Spring 2022 service change data (March – June 2022) and identifies systemwide needs for investment in three priorities: crowding, reliability, and service growth. It calls for zero hours to relieve crowding, 24,750 hours to improve reliability, and 1,644,200 hours for service growth along major transit routes. The service growth investments would be phased over the next 15 years to help Metro reach the long-range planning targets envisioned in the Metro Connects interim network.

This report is the first System Evaluation using the new *Service Guidelines*, which were updated in 2021. While the structure of the document is similar to previous reports, the new *Service Guidelines* established methodologies that more strongly consider equity in determining Metro's investment needs and establish new target service levels for each route based on the Metro Connects interim network. It includes a detailed analysis of Metro's fixed route system and a new RapidRide Progress Report. This report also includes information about Metro's Flexible Service program, responding 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 2022 *System Evaluation* reports on the status of existing flexible services and potential locations for new flexible services pilots. The report also evaluates King County Water Taxi services in compliance with Ordinance 18413.

The 2022 *System Evaluation* highlights the continued impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on service across the system. Although Metro's ridership continues to recover from the impacts of

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the pandemic, some routes are still partially suspended. Many routes have trips cancelled due to the national operator shortage that we are experiencing here in King County. In addition, these issues create challenges in comparing data across years or service periods.

Metro Connects, Metro's long-range plan, took 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.

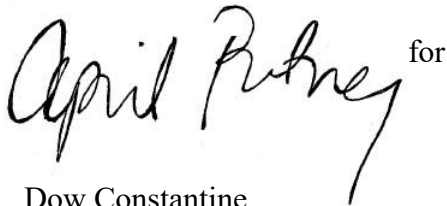
The enclosed report supports goals in the King County Strategic Plan and the Equity and Social Justice Strategic Plan by evaluating service growth in terms of social equity, land use, and geographic value. The report furthers the mobility goal of the King County Strategic Plan by advancing mobility across the county while maintaining efficient and accountable government. The report shows how Metro supports King County Strategic Climate Action Plan goals by illustrating 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.

It is estimated that this report required 350 staff hours to produce, costing approximately \$20,300.

Thank you for your consideration of this report and proposed Motion which, if enacted, would accept the 2022 *System Evaluation* report.

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

Sincerely,

 for

Dow Constantine
King County Executive

Enclosure

cc: King County Councilmembers
ATTN: Stephanie Cirkovich, Chief of Staff
Melani Pedroza, Clerk of the Council
Shannon Braddock, Chief of Staff, Office of the Executive
Karan Gill, Deputy Chief of Staff, Office of the Executive
Mina Hashemi, Council Relations Director, Office of the Executive
Terry White, General Manager, Metro Transit Department (MTD)