



February 4, 2021

Terry White, General Manager  
King County Metro Transit  
201 South Jackson Street  
Seattle, Washington 98104

Re: Seattle Children's support for proposed North Link Connections service change

Dear Mr. White,

We commend the North Link project team for the thoughtful, inclusive and timely work. The phases of work included a set of guiding principles that were clear, strategic, valuable, and consistent with Seattle Children's strategic mobility needs. The proposed service changes deliver innovative solutions strengthening the attractiveness of taking transit to, and between, destinations in NE Seattle.

**We are especially enthusiastic about the proposed creation of direct service between the U-District Station and Seattle Children's along NE 45<sup>th</sup> Street**; revising routes 31 and 32 addresses Seattle Children's highest transit priority, given that:

- Seattle Children's is a **regional medical center providing specialized medical care** for children and families traveling from across the county and state.
- **Improved east-west and crosstown connections** reduce barriers to ensure our patients and their families, and 10,000 workforce members can easily travel to and from Seattle Children's conveniently and in a time competitive fashion. Currently there is no direct service to Seattle Children's from the U-District on NE 45<sup>th</sup> Street.
- Seattle Children's Hospital operates twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week, so **transfers should be between frequent services where possible, including midday, at night, and on weekends.**

The service change proposals are consistent with guiding principles and create a strong integrated NE Seattle transit network. We appreciate innovative service proposals like:

- Combining route 45 and 75 to strengthen east-west connections to and through major destinations.
- Frequent all day coverage for much of the restructure area despite the economic challenges we are all facing.



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We appreciate the opportunity to provide input throughout the process. Thank you for including our organization in your outreach efforts. We are supportive of Metro's service change proposals recommended for adoption by King County Council.

Best,

Jamie Cheney  
Director of Transportation

Cc: King County Executive Dow Constantine  
King County Council Chair Claudia Balducci  
Maha Jahshan, North Link Community Engagement Lead  
Dave VanderZee, North Link Project Manager  
Edna Shim, Seattle Children's