



King County

Metropolitan King County Council

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July 19, 2007

Kay Burrows, Chair
Metro Transit Accessible Services Advisory Committee
13341 15th Avenue NE, #E104
Seattle, WA 98125

Dear Ms. Burrows,

Thank you for your service as chair of the Accessible Services Advisory Committee. Your committee's input is invaluable to promoting equality and independence in public transit for elders and people with disabilities in our community.

You may be aware last fall, the Metropolitan King County Council took action requiring Metro Transit to phase out the practice of covering bus windows on buses wrapped with advertising. The Council made this policy decision in response to concerns that rider safety, usability, and comfort should be the primary goal of public transit. Indeed, after bus wraps were instituted, councilmembers heard from several constituents concerned about obstructed views from Metro buses. These concerns included riders missing stops because they could not see outside the bus to determine their location. For riders with disabilities, including sight-impaired individuals who already have trouble seeing and riders who are physically unable to get up to see out the front window to determine bus location, these problems are especially difficult.

Recently, Metro Transit has proposed an alternate bus wrap program that would allow partial covering of bus windows with advertising. This proposal is currently before the Council for consideration. We wish to request input from the Accessible Services Advisory Committee on this proposal; your committee represents the interests of elderly and disabled transit riders, individuals who may be most impacted by the practice of covering bus windows. We would appreciate your committee's consideration of this alternate bus wrap proposal at your next possible opportunity, due to the timely nature of the proposed legislation currently before the Council.

Please find the enclosed information regarding the alternate bus wrap proposal, as provided to the Council by the Executive branch. We would also urge you to contact

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Arthur Thornbury, staff to the Council Transportation Committee, for more information about Council consideration of, and concerns about, this proposal. Mr. Thornbury can be reached at 206.296.1680 or arthur.thornbury@kingcounty.gov.

Thank you in advance for your consideration of this important issue for transit riders.

Sincerely,



Lory Phillips, District Four
Metropolitan King County Council



Reagan Dunn, District Nine
Metropolitan King County Council
Chair, Transportation Committee

Enclosure

cc: Metropolitan King County Councilmembers
Arthur Thornbury, Staff, King County Council Transportation Committee
Kevin Desmond, General Manager, Metro Transit
Accessible Services Advisory Committee Members
Marnie McGrath, Accessible Services Advisory Committee Staff, Metro Transit