



King County

Shannon Braddock
King County Executive

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May 16, 2025

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

Dear Councilmember Zahilay:

This letter transmits a proposed Ordinance that would, if enacted, establish the Locally Preferred Alternative for the RapidRide K Line, a 16-mile route serving communities between Totem Lake, downtown Kirkland, downtown Bellevue, and Eastgate Park & Ride.

The Locally Preferred Alternative is the transportation solution identified as the best option for a bus rapid transit (BRT) corridor after a thorough analysis of various alternatives, including the recommended route alignment and station locations. This proposed legislation will deliver critical improvements to transit in Kirkland and Bellevue. The RapidRide K Line is scheduled to begin service in 2030 and will be the 11th RapidRide Line, joining the current RapidRide system (A-H Lines) and the RapidRide I and J Lines (both in construction phase).

The RapidRide K Line is being developed in coordination with the cities of Kirkland and Bellevue. Metro will be seeking a Federal Transit Administration (FTA) Small Starts Grant for 50 percent of project funding, with the other 50 percent of project funds provided by Metro. Adoption of the proposed Ordinance will allow the project team to proceed with applications for federal funding and initiate the preliminary design for the RapidRide K Line.

The alignment recommendations described in the attached Locally Preferred Alternative are the result of collaborations between King County and the cities of Kirkland and Bellevue. Project planning also included three phases of engagement with community partners, neighborhood organizations, employers and business associations, and the public.

The RapidRide K Line will tie together communities across Kirkland and Bellevue with connections to employment, shopping, education, and regional transit connections including

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the Sound Transit's Stride I-405 Bus Rapid Transit S1 and S2 Lines, Sound Transit's Link Light Rail 2 Line, Metro's RapidRide B Line, and other Metro bus and mobility services.

Expanding Metro's RapidRide service will improve the ability of people in King County to travel without a car and therefore contribute to the reduction of countywide greenhouse gas emissions.

Thank you for your consideration of this proposed Ordinance.

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

Sincerely,



for

Shannon Braddock
King County Executive

Enclosure

cc: King County Councilmembers
ATTN: Stephanie Cirkovich, Chief of Staff, King County Council
Melani Hay, Clerk of the Council
Karan Gill, Deputy Executive, Chief of Staff, Office of the Executive
Stephanie Pure, Council Relations Director, Office of the Executive
Michelle Allison, General Manager, Metro Transit Department
Christina O'Claire, Director, Mobility Division, Metro Transit Department