



King County

Dow Constantine

King County Executive

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March 26, 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, add a new chapter to King County Code Title 28 expressly authorizing the Metro Transit Department (Metro) to apply for federal assistance from the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) and legally committing King County to comply with the terms of an award as the recipient or applicant of a grant or cooperative agreement. This proposed Ordinance will bring Metro into compliance with an FTA requirement that a grantee's governing body expressly acknowledge and accept the legal terms and obligations required under their awards.

Metro has accepted grant awards from the FTA and its predecessor the Urban Mass Transportation Administration since Metro began operations on January 1, 1973. Metro accepted these awards under a series of legal documents detailing the succession of interests from the Seattle Transit System to Metro. A review of these documents by the FTA's legal department in late 2024, however, led FTA to require that Metro obtain an updated, express authorization from the King County Council stating that King County will accept the terms and conditions of FTA awards. While Metro has annually certified compliance with the laws, rules, and regulations governing FTA grants as required by federal transportation law, FTA required this updated authorization.

In recent years, Metro has received approximately \$100 million per year from the FTA. These grants have helped Metro with significant capital projects such as the purchase of new buses and the construction of RapidRide bus rapid transit lines, while providing additional dollars for the maintenance of buses, ferry boats, and facilities. This partnership with the FTA is critical to Metro continuing to provide high quality service, offering a variety of mobility options to its customers, including the most vulnerable populations in our community.

The Honorable Girmay Zahilay

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Thank you for your consideration of this proposed Ordinance. If your staff have questions, please contact David Morrison, Manager of Accounting, Grants and Contracting, Metro Transit Department, at 206-477-3818.

Sincerely,



for

Dow Constantine

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, Chief of Staff, Office of the Executive

Penny Lipsou, Council Relations Director, Office of the Executive

Michelle Allison, General Manager, Metro Transit Department

Jeannie Miller, Assistant General Manager, Finance and Administration Division, Metro Transit Department