

December 22, 2015

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

Dear Councilmember Phillips:

As required by Ordinance 17641, I am transmitting to the King County Council a motion to accept the King County Metro Transit Access to Transit Phase 2 Report, included as Attachment A. The attached report is the final step of the Access to Transit Study (“Study”) to identify opportunities to improve access to transit, with a focus on infrastructure. A work plan for the Study was transmitted to Council and accepted in March 2014 by Motion 14089. The work plan included the timeline, milestones, lead agency or jurisdiction, and scope to define:

- a. the role of park and rides and other community infrastructure related to access to transit;*
- b. industry best practices and innovative approaches to improve access to transit capacity including but not limited to parking management, technology, non-motorized corridors, and transportation demand management;*
- c. options for regional needs reporting and funding of access to transit infrastructure;*
- d. model policy language that supports access to transit through transit-oriented communities and infrastructure; and*
- e. potential updates to the Strategic Plan for Public Transportation and Metro Service Guidelines to clarify the role, measurement and funding of access to transit as they relate to the King County Metro transit system.*

In this report, King County Metro Transit (“Metro”) addresses items c, d, and e. The report explores needs assessment and reporting, funding, policies, and regional coordination

concerning access to transit. Two areas of particular interest, transit parking and transit-oriented development, are discussed. The report also identifies steps Metro will take to improve access to transit, including an expanded parking program, discussion of a regional parking permit program, and continued participation in the Puget Sound Regional Council's Transit Access Assessment. To support future actions, the report recommends policy language to be considered in Metro's 2015 update of the Strategic Plan for Public Transportation. As directed by Strategy 6.1.2 in the current Strategic Plan, Metro is also developing a long-range plan that will identify the service and supporting capital elements of a future Metro transit network. This long-range plan, which will be developed by the fourth quarter of 2016, will also discuss access to transit needs.

This report and the Study will help ensure progress toward meeting the goals of the King County Strategic Plan and the Equity and Social Justice Initiative. The eight County goals of safety, human potential, economic growth, environmental sustainability, service excellence, financial stewardship, public engagement and transparency, and quality workforce are mirrored in Metro's Strategic Plan. It will also help Metro and the County respond to Objective 2 of Goal 3 (Economic Growth and Built Environment) of the King County Strategic Plan, which is to "meet the growing need for transportation services and facilities throughout the county."

In addition to the development of this report, Metro has been actively participating in the regional Transit Access Working Group facilitated by the Puget Sound Regional Council. Metro is working with this group to track and coordinate with several efforts in the region on related topics, including the Sound Transit Parking Permit Program and Parking Pilot study, the Washington State Department of Transportation study to Maximize the Efficiency and Increase Person Occupancy at Overcrowded Park-and-Ride Lots (conducted with contributions from Sound Transit and King County Metro), and the King County/Sound Transit Nonmotorized Connectivity Study.

It is estimated that this report required 200 staff hours to produce, costing \$12,000, with minimal printing costs.

Thank you for your consideration of this motion to accept the last phase report of the Study. The Study is an important part of Metro's long-range planning effort and will help the County better understand how infrastructure investments affect access to transit. This will enable Metro to make the best use of the County's transit resources to deliver high-quality services that get people where they want to go.

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If you have any questions, please contact Christina O'Claire, Manager of Strategy and Performance, at 206-477-5801, or via email at christina.oclaire@kingcounty.gov.

Sincerely,

Dow Constantine
King County Executive

Enclosures

cc: King County Councilmembers
 ATTN: Carolyn Busch, Chief of Staff
 Anne Noris, Clerk of the Council
Carrie S. Cihak, Chief of Policy Development, King County Executive Office
Dwight Dively, Director, Office of Performance, Strategy and Budget
Harold S. Taniguchi, Director, Department of Transportation (DOT)
Kevin Desmond, General Manager, Metro Transit Division, DOT
Victor Obeso, Deputy General Manager, Planning and Customer Services, Metro
 Transit Division, DOT
Christina O'Claire, Manager, Strategy and Performance, Metro Transit Division,
 DOT
Lisa Shafer, Transportation Planner, Strategy and Performance, Metro Transit
 Division, DOT