



King County

Dow Constantine

King County Executive

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Harold Taniguchi
 Director
 King County Department of Transportation
 201 S. Jackson St.
 Seattle, WA 98104

Rob Gannon
 General Manager
 King County Metro Transit Division
 201 S. Jackson St.
 Seattle, WA 98104

Dear Mr. Taniguchi and Mr. Gannon:

I came into my first term as King County Executive making regional mobility one of my top priorities. With your help and leadership at King County DOT and Metro, we have reached some key regional mobility objectives such as the development of the Metro long-range plan, the creation of a low-income fare, and instituting a partnership between Metro and Sound Transit to better integrate services. We also navigated the organization through a great recession that impacted our ability to grow at the pace we had planned.

Regional mobility remains a top priority for my administration. As our region grows, transit continues to be one of the most vital and visible services provided by King County. As I envision the bold steps Metro will need to take in the near future to change and grow with the region, the structure of the organization must be set up to allow innovation and accountability commensurate with the level of investment we are making in Metro Transit.

With this letter I am directing work to begin to transform King County Metro into a separate department within King County. Over the coming months, I will work closely with King County Councilmembers to identify shared objectives and priorities for Metro as a standalone department. These discussions will focus on four main areas: mobility, capital program, employee investment, and partnerships.

Mobility: Residents of King County rely on Metro to help them get to their jobs, recreational activities, and education centers. We must continue to build options for current transit riders and to attract new riders through better connections to other transit modes, providing new first/last mile investments, and developing additional innovative tools to enhance the customer experience.

Capital Program: With the adoption of the long-range plan, Metro has committed to an ambitious capital program. It is essential that Metro better align its resources in

order to quickly and efficiently deliver on the capital program that will allow for the service investments the region is seeking.

Employee Investment: Another pillar of my administration is my focus on our employees. King County has talented and dedicated employees and we need to continue to invest in ways that help us become the employer of the future. With close to 5,000 employees, Metro plays a key role in working with our labor partners to ensure the safety and wellbeing of one of our most valuable assets.

Partnerships: No organization can accomplish their mission without strong partnerships. A focus for the new department will be to continue to build on the strong relationships with our cities, stakeholders, businesses, and regional transit providers. Successful implementation of the long-range plan and solutions to some of our region's most challenging mobility problems will only be realized if we work together.

These four key areas of focus will provide a framework for the conversations with the King County Council members. My intent is that this joint effort will inform the business planning and budget process Metro will undertake later this winter and into next summer to transform into a King County department.

As we begin this process, I have asked Dwight Dively to serve as the project sponsor. The outcome of this work will be reflected in the 2018-2019 budget. Close coordination and direction from Mr. Dively will ensure that changes to the structure are in line with our budget priorities. Additionally, Diane Carlson will serve as a key liaison from my office. Ms. Carlson will provide consistent direction to Metro and will help ensure that the key areas of focus listed above are realized in the final department design.

It is anticipated that Metro will become a department early in 2019 following the Council's actions on the budget and any additional legislation that may be necessary to implement this change. During this transition period, Rob Gannon and Harold Taniguchi will be in close alignment and will be reporting directly to the Senior Leadership Team on the work related to the transition.

Thank you both for your continued commitment to serving the people of King County. I look forward to working closely on this initiative with you in the coming months.

Sincerely,



Dow Constantine
King County Executive