



April 2, 2025
Michelle Allison, General Manager
King County Metro Transit
King Street Center
201 S Jackson Street
Seattle, WA 98104-3856

Ms. Allison:

On behalf of the City of Bellevue, I am writing in support of the RapidRide K Line Locally Preferred Alternative (LPA). The RapidRide K Line will connect the cities of Bellevue and Kirkland with fast, frequent and reliable bus rapid transit service.

The K Line aligns with Bellevue's updated Comprehensive Plan, which identifies the need for collaboration with Metro to deliver upon high-capacity transit service that is well-integrated with Bellevue's land use and transportation vision. The K Line is also aligned with - and is an outcome of - Bellevue's *Transit Master Plan* (TMP) adopted by the Bellevue City Council in 2014. We are excited to see this priority project move one step closer to implementation. We appreciate the significant public outreach that Metro conducted for this project between 2019 and 2025. Throughout the three phases of public engagement, Metro used an inclusive engagement campaign to hear from communities historically underrepresented in transit planning. By using both in-person outreach and online surveys, Metro was able to capture input from a broad range of people who live, work and learn in Bellevue and Kirkland. The results of the public engagement campaigns were used to inform decision-making at key points throughout this project phase.

Bellevue supports the access to transit and speed and reliability projects included in the Locally Preferred Alternative. The eight access to transit projects in Bellevue will enhance safety and convenience to walk, roll, or bike to the K Line. The speed and reliability projects will ensure that buses arrive on time and move quickly through congested areas, like downtown Bellevue. Additionally, thank you for your responsiveness to Bellevue's request to remove the westbound business access and transit (BAT) lane on NE 10th Street. Bellevue believes that this change balances the needs and limited space of the city's transportation system. We appreciate your responsiveness to our request.

Thank you for your commitment to finding solutions for the station design at 110th Avenue NE and NE 6th Street, such as integrating weather protection elements into the City Hall Plaza design as opposed to Metro's traditional RapidRide kit-of-parts. Bellevue is planning for 35,000 more homes and 70,000 more jobs over the next 20 years. This location sits at a juncture of several investments that advance the vision for diverse, connected, and equitable neighborhoods as the city grows. Bellevue's Grand Connection Crossing project will provide a half-mile pedestrian bridge over I-405 near NE 6th Street in downtown, integrating with private redevelopment and the regional light rail system and connecting to the 42-mile regional Eastrail



corridor. Bellevue appreciates Metro's commitment to minimize conflicts between users of different modes and create an open, inviting civic plaza. Bellevue expects and is ready to partner carefully to create a high-quality experience for all modes, and to deliver upon the

Grand Connection vision of a seamless route for people walking and rolling between its waterfront and the Eastrail corridor.

Thank you again for the opportunity to comment on the LPA. We look forward to the implementation of the RapidRide K Line. If you have any further questions, please contact our Transportation Director Andrew Singelakis at asingelakis@bellevuewa.gov or 425-452-6468.

Sincerely,

Lynne Robinson
Mayor of Bellevue



March 18, 2025

The Honorable Girmay Zahilay
Chair, Metropolitan King County Council
516 Third Ave
Seattle, Washington 98104

Dear Chair Zahilay,

This letter is to express the City of Kirkland's support for Metro's RapidRide K Line Locally Preferred Alternative (LPA). The City recognizes that this is Metro's highest level of investment in transit service and represents a once-in-a-generation investment by providing frequent, fast, and reliable service between Kirkland's Totem Lake urban growth center, through greater downtown Kirkland, to downtown Bellevue, through Bellevue College, and to the Eastgate Park and Ride.

The K Line is a 16-mile Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) route that will greatly improve mobility for the Eastside by providing connections between Bellevue, Kirkland, and the Puget Sound region. This route will connect riders to major regional transit networks, such as Sound Transit's Link Light Rail to Seattle and Redmond, future STRIDE BRT service along I-405 from Lynwood to Renton, and Metro's RapidRide B Line (Bellevue to Redmond).

The cities in East King County, including the Kirkland community, are growing substantially. Within Kirkland, there are two regionally designated urban growth centers and major employers such as EvergreenHealth Hospital, Amazon, Google, Northwest University, and Kenworth Trucks. The recently upzoned NE 85th St. Station Area will also become a significant mixed-use hub for housing, shops, restaurants and employment along the K Line route. The K Line will connect other key destinations visited by the Kirkland community and visitors from the region, such as the shops and housing at the Village at Totem Lake and Kirkland Urban, the Kirkland Boys and Girls Club, Downtown Kirkland's shopping and restaurant destinations, the Kirkland Library, senior housing, the Kirkland Performance Center, the Kirkland Teen Union Building, the Peter Kirk Pool, Peter Kirk Community Center/Senior Center, Peter Kirk Park and ballfields, Kirkland's desirable waterfront parks, Downtown Bellevue (including hotels, shops, restaurants, and the Bellevue Transit Center), Bellevue College, and the Eastgate Park and Ride.

By providing frequent, fast, and reliable transit service along this corridor, Metro will enable people accessing key destinations to reach more locations in less time. The result for Kirkland and its community will be increased transit service, better connections, and more travel options.

Sincerely,
CITY OF KIRKLAND

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Kelli Curtis".

Kelli Curtis
Mayor