

# King County Metro

King County Transportation District  
February 25, 2026



# Who We Are

King County Metro is the Puget Sound region's largest public transportation agency. Metro provides bus, on-demand, paratransit, vanpool, and water taxi services, and operates Seattle Streetcar, Sound Transit Link light rail, and Sound Transit Express bus service.

## MISSION

Provide the best possible public transportation services and improve regional mobility and quality of life in King County.



# Metro is the 8th largest public transit agency in the country



**5,900+**

Metro workforce

**\$3.97B**

2026–2027 Metro  
operating budget



**148**

fixed bus routes



**1,360+**

Metro and Sound Transit buses



**7** bases

**277K**

rides every weekday  
(all modes except  
light rail and express bus)



**1M+**

Access and non-dedicated  
accessible annual service boardings  
(for riders with disabilities who cannot  
use regular fixed-route service)

PUBLIC TRANSIT KEEPS

**108K**

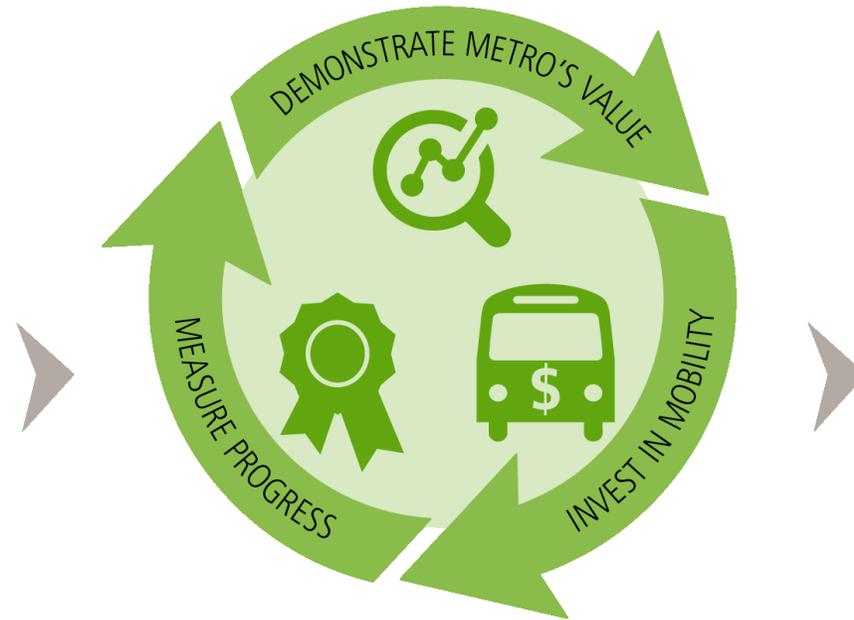


cars off the road each weekday

# The Long Game



A mobility agency that connects people and communities

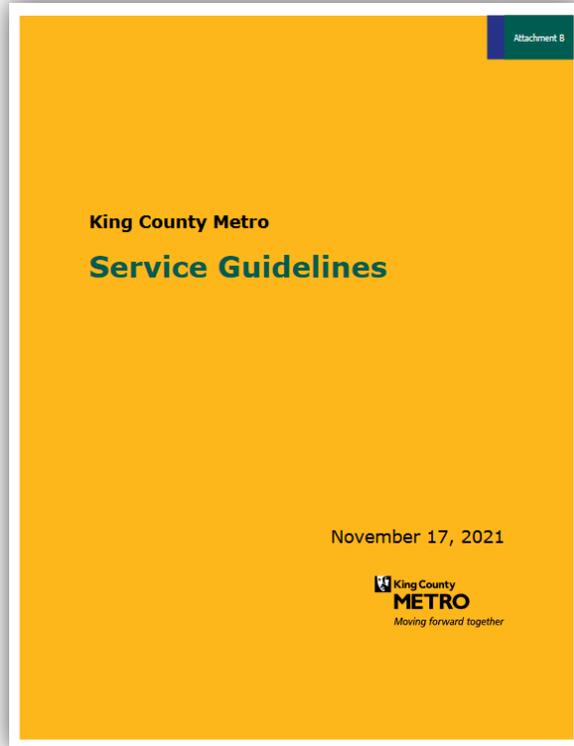


Roadmap to continuously improve, innovate, engage, and show the value of transit

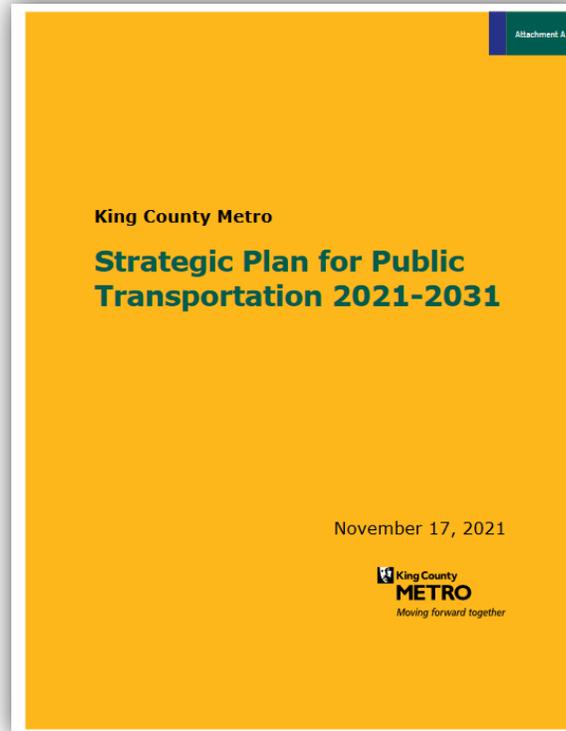


Vision of the future co-created with community

# Metro's Primary Policies



Guides evaluation, modification, & growth of service by establishing criteria to analyze & plan service changes to meet shifting needs & deliver efficient, high-quality, equitable service.



Articulates Metro's mission, 10 goals, objectives, & strategies to achieve them, with performance measures.



Metro's long-range unconstrained service & capital vision to deliver 70% more service by 2050.

# Metro 2025 Highlights

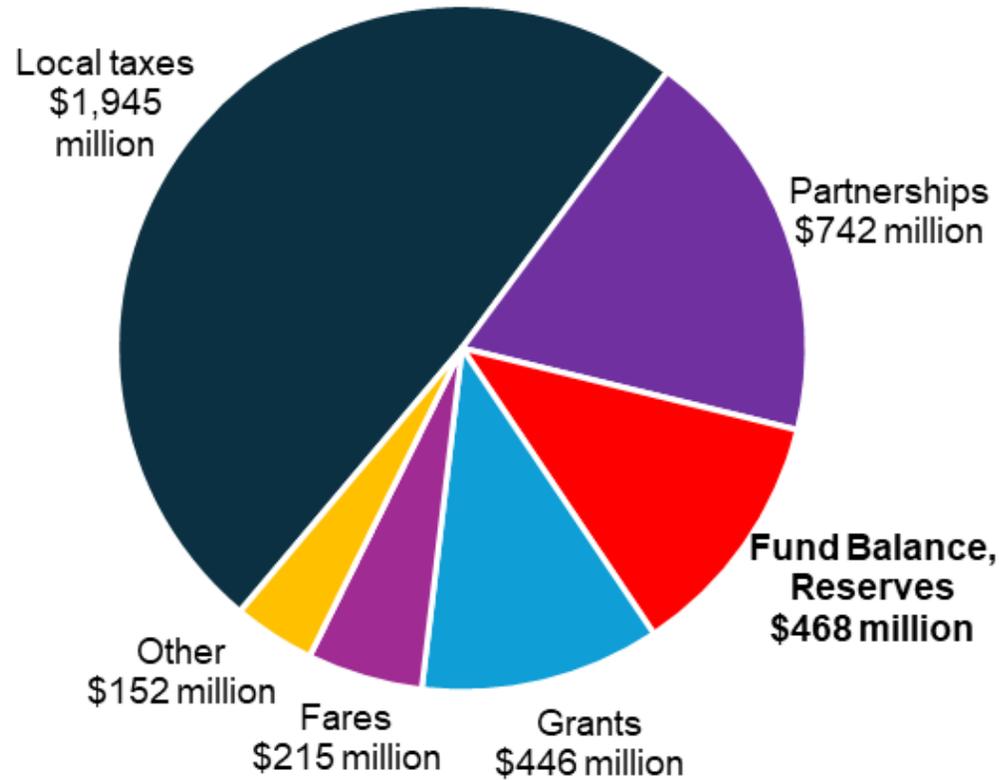
- Service and Ridership Grew
  - 2nd highest ridership growth in the nation
  - 7.8% increase in service hours and 5<sup>th</sup> service change Metro has added service
- RapidRide Expansion
  - Received \$80 million from the FTA for the RapidRide I Line
  - Continued planning and engagement for the RapidRide K Line
  - Planning for the RapidRide R line continued
- Resumed Fare inspection and enforcement
- Made progress on transit safety
  - Installing operator partitions
  - Drug incidents and safety incidents are down
  - Partnered on the Regional Transit Safety Task Force
- Restructured service around the light rail stations
  - East Link Connections
  - South Link Connections
- Progress towards greenhouse gas reduction
- Began planning for FIFA Men's World Cup



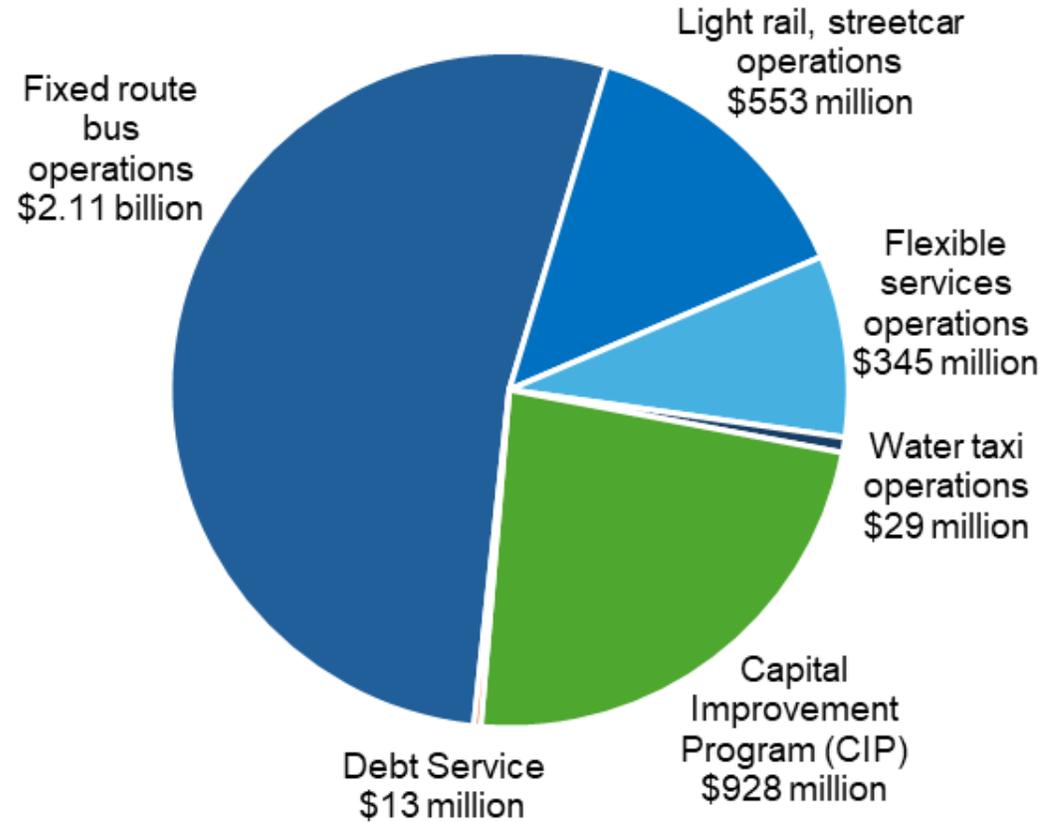
# Financial picture: resource challenges ahead

# Metro Transit Financials, 2026-2027

Funding Sources, Total = \$3.97 billion

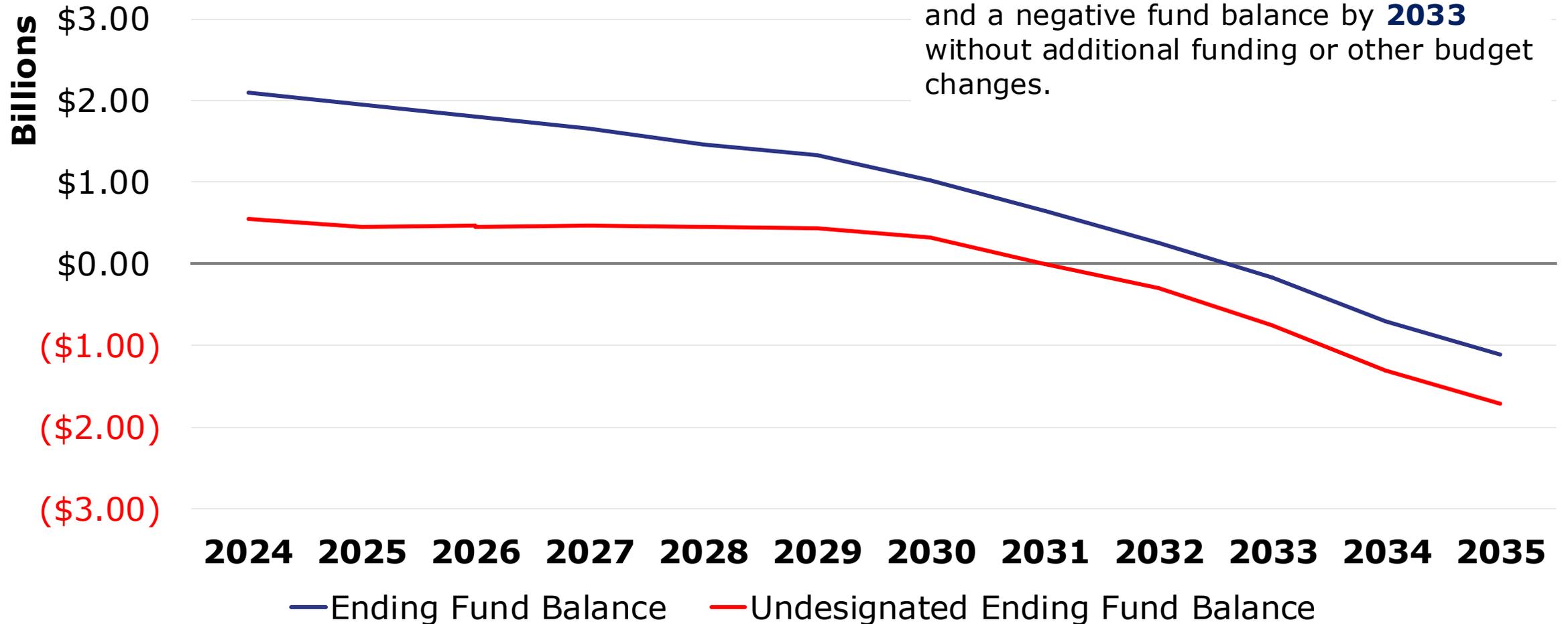


Use of Funds, Total = \$3.97 billion



# Metro is in good shape now, but faces financial challenges

The 2026-2027 budget projects Metro not meeting its reserve requirements by **2031** and a negative fund balance by **2033** without additional funding or other budget changes.



# Given the financial challenges, Metro is choosing to:

- Prioritize delivering safe, clean, and reliable service to our customers
- Identify cost saving measures while continuing to focus on service quality
- Focus on delivering a capital program that prioritizes taking care of what we have through our state of good repair program while adjusting investments in key areas:
  - Reduce future fleet size to better align with operating more all-day service
  - Cancel construction of a new bus base while still meeting the needs of projected service growth
  - Adjusting our approach to transition to zero-emissions service as technology matures and funding becomes available
  - Adjust RapidRide capital program to prioritize service frequency with a lower capital cost
- As a result, Metro's projected shortfall by 2035 was reduced from over \$3B to \$1.75B.

# Without new funding, difficult choices lie ahead

Without additional funding, Metro will have to make additional cost reductions.

- Delaying planned service growth and potential future service reductions
- Propose further reduction or slow down to capital program:
  - Planned Rapid Ride
  - Delaying electrification of the next bus base
- However, these changes only postpone the eventual need for future funding
- Additional revenue is critical in delivering Metro Connects' 2050 network of 7+ million service hours
  - In order to reach this target, Metro will have to add ~3 million new service hours beyond our anticipated 4.1 million that will be on the road by the end of 2027.

# Closing and questions