

April XX, 2019

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

Dear Councilmember Dembowski:

This letter transmits a scoping document in response to Motion 15253, directing King County Metro Transit to “begin a planning effort during 2019 to develop a framework for the equitable implementation of innovations in transit service and mobility” and file a scoping document by April 18, 2019. As required, the scoping document includes Metro’s proposed coordination with the regional planning efforts outlined in Motion 15252, a timeline, expected work tasks, and a budget narrative. It also contains context around Metro’s transition to a mobility agency and commitment to equity and sustainability, and a proposed outline for the final mobility framework.

Metro sees mobility as a basic human right that allows communities and individuals to access the opportunities needed to thrive and reach their full potential. We know disparities by race and place still exist in King County and threaten our collective prosperity. We also know climate change threatens our economy, environment, health, and safety. Meanwhile, the transportation industry is changing rapidly, with the emergence of many new mobility options and technologies. As a public agency, it is Metro’s duty to assure mobility reaches everyone in a sustainable, healthy, and equitable manner.

Metro aims to develop a framework for equitable and sustainable mobility that supports livable communities, a thriving economy for all, and a sustainable environment. The framework will ensure our policies, services, programs, and investments improve regional mobility, support the advancement of equity and social justice, and address climate change by reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

Metro will work with communities, elected officials, and other key stakeholders to develop this framework. Metro is procuring a consultant team to support the analysis, existing conditions and best practices review, and engagement associated with this effort. That same team will support the analysis and engagement required by Motion 2018-15252, requiring a regional planning effort to address the implementation of METRO CONNECTS and develop a regional funding plan. These transformational documents will inform the development of

The Honorable Rod Dembowski

April XX, 2019

Page 2

funding options and future updates to guiding policies like Metro's Strategic Plan for Public Transportation and Service Guidelines.

Metro and the Executive prepared a supplemental budget request to ensure we have adequate resources directed to the consultant and staff teams, the engagement process, and the development of materials. The Executive is transmitting this request separately.

Though staff working on the mobility framework and income-based fare approach are coordinating, Metro will handle the income-based fares approach separately, as 2019-2020 budget proviso #P3 (ER 3 and 4) requires transmittal of a plan for an income-based fares program by September 2019 and implementation of the program by March 2020.

The scoping document and framework will advance goals in the Strategic Plan for Equity and Social Justice by resulting in recommended changes to policies, programs, services, and investment strategies to better advance equity through our operations. They will also support goals in the Strategic Plan for Public Transportation, including "provide equitable opportunities for people from all areas of King County to access the public transportation system" and "help reduce greenhouse gas emissions in the region." Finally, by highlighting opportunities to better reduce greenhouse gas emissions through transportation, the framework will advance the objectives in the King County Strategic Climate Action Plan.

This report required an estimated 300 staff hours to prepare, costing \$15,000. The estimated printing costs are nominal.

If you have any questions, please contact Tessa McClellan at 206-263-5750 or tmcclellan@kingcounty.gov. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Dow Constantine
King County Executive

Enclosures

cc: King County Councilmembers
ATTN: Carolyn Busch, Chief of Staff
Melani Pedroza, Clerk of the Council
Dwight Dively, Director, Office of Performance, Strategy and Budget
Rob Gannon, General Manager, Transit Department
Chris O'Claire, Mobility Division Director, Transit Department