



King County

Dow Constantine

King County Executive

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June 24, 2022

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

Dear Councilmember Balducci:

This letter transmits a Water Taxi Expansion Report as called for by Ordinance 19210, Section 113, Proviso P3 and a proposed Motion that would, if passed, acknowledge receipt of the report.

As required, the enclosed report details on operational planning for Water Taxi expansion routes originating in Kenmore and Ballard. The report includes technical analysis around shoreside preliminary design, route planning, equipment specification, preliminary capital and operating budgets, among other details.

The report addresses capital and operational funding as well as the next steps needed to move forward with implementation of the two proposed routes. Based on this operational planning work, the Ballard to downtown Seattle Water Taxi has a feasible path forward to implementation and can move forward if funding is identified and implementation is prioritized across King County services. The Kenmore to Seattle route faces challenges to implementation, most notably lack of support from UW for the identified landing site and lack of other suitable Seattle-side landing sites.

Because this report expands on assumptions, technical analysis, engagement findings, and recommendations of previous King County studies conducted on these expansion routes — including the 2015 Ferry Expansion Options Report, the 2020 Kenmore Water Taxi Route proviso response, and the 2020 Ballard to Downtown Seattle Water Taxi Route proviso response — no additional community engagement or other engagement was conducted. Metro did engage with landing site owners around technical elements of implementation to inform this final report.

The work outlined in this final report furthers the King County Strategic Plan mobility goal to deliver a safe, reliable, and seamless network of transportation options to get people and goods where they need to go, when they need to get there. It supports the Metro Strategic Plan goal to

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improve access to mobility options, and supports the Strategic Climate Action Plan's transportation and land use goal of reducing reliance on driving.

It is estimated that the report required 716 hours by Metro staff to produce, costing approximately \$63,000 in staff hours and \$241,000 in consultant costs. The estimated printing cost for this report is nominal.

The updates for implementation of Water Taxi expansion routes originating in Kenmore and Ballard will be retained and used to further inform the long-term mobility plans for Metro.

Thank you for your consideration of this report and proposed Motion.

If your staff have any questions, please contact Paul Brodeur, Marine Division Director, Metro Transit Department, at 206-477-3966.

Sincerely,

 for

Dow Constantine
King County Executive

Enclosure

cc: King County Councilmembers
 ATTN: Stephanie Cirkovich, Chief of Staff
 Melani Pedroza, Clerk of the Council
Shannon Braddock, Chief of Staff, Office of the Executive
Karan Gill, Deputy Chief of Staff, Office of the Executive
Mina Hashemi, Council Relations Director, Office of the Executive
Terry White, General Manager, Metro Transit Department (MTD)
Christina O'Claire, Director, Mobility Division, MTD