



## King County

### **Dow Constantine**

King County Executive

401 Fifth Avenue, Suite 800

Seattle, WA 98104-1818

**206-263-9600** Fax 206-296-0194

TTY Relay: 711

[www.kingcounty.gov](http://www.kingcounty.gov)

September 27, 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 the King County Information Technology (KCIT) Eastrail Fiber Development Project Request for Information (RFI) Report as called for by King County Ordinance 19210, Proviso P3, as amended by Ordinance 19474.

The work outlined in this report arose from the 2015-2016 Eastside Rail Corridor (ERC) Work Plan, approved by the King County Council through Motion 14654. This Work Plan included a goal to gain the approval for the addition of communications use within the ERC. This goal encompassed a joint effort between King County, the cities of Kirkland and Redmond, Sound Transit, and Puget Sound Energy (Eastrail owners).

Together, the Eastrail owners developed and advertised a RFI in May 2022 to explore the potential construction of fiber optic and telecommunications cable along the Eastrail Corridor. As required by the Proviso, this report details the RFI advertisement, outreach, and vendor responses. It includes analysis of the proposed fiber optic service business models, compares the benefits of the differing business models, and outlines potential community benefits anticipated by using the Eastrail property to create a telecommunication asset.

Ultimately, due to uncertain revenue generation and the improbability that a fully funded private model will materialize, the RFI responses did not identify a clear path for next actions. In consultation with the Proviso's sponsor about the outcome of the RFI and findings of the report, a project plan is not warranted. Consequently, I do not support continuation of the project.

This Proviso response furthers the King County Strategic Plan goal of efficient, accountable regional and local government. It is estimated this report required 150 staff hours to produce, costing approximately \$26,250. The estimated printing cost for this report is nominal.

The Honorable Claudia Balducci

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Thank you for your review of the enclosed Eastrail Fiber Development RFI Report.

If your staff have any questions, please contact David Mendel, King County Interim Chief Information Officer, King County Department of Information Technology at 206-263-7942.

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  
Christie True, Director, Department of Natural Resources and Parks  
David Mendel, Interim Chief Information Officer, Department of Information  
Technology (KCIT)  
Darryl E. Hunt, I-Net Business Manager, KCIT