



## King County

### **Dow Constantine**

King County Executive  
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January 10, 2023

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

Dear Councilmember Upthegrove:

This letter transmits a Service Recovery Plan and proposed Ordinance that would, if enacted, approve the plan. Approval of this proposed legislation will enable continuation of service suspensions implemented during the COVID-19 pandemic and approve the service recovery approach described in the Service Recovery Plan.

Beginning in 2020, King County Metro suspended service in response to decreased ridership and operational capacity brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic. Service suspensions were implemented pursuant to the emergency authority granted to the Executive by King County Code Section 28.94.020(B)(2)(a). While some previously suspended service was restored in 2021, suspensions remain in place that exceed Metro's authority to maintain under the non-emergency authority granted by King County Code Section 28.94.020(b).

Public transit is at the heart of a successful recovery from the health and economic crises precipitated by COVID-19. Metro's approach will add service back into the system in ways that meet current and future travel needs, and move towards a vision of a frequent, all-day transit system envisioned in Metro Connects. The changes will be developed in partnership with community over the next several years and brought to the King County Council for approval in area and project-based service change ordinances.

In accordance with adopted policies and within the context of service restructures, Metro, along with community and other interested parties, will make recommendations to the Executive and the Council about how to restore suspended service going forward. Implementation of such changes will be subject to approval of the King County Council.

Metro's Service Recovery Plan supports the Strategic Climate Action Plan (SCAP) by pursuing service redesigns that are consistent with Metro policies recently updated to align with the SCAP, including METRO CONNECTS, the Strategic Plan for Public Transportation, and the

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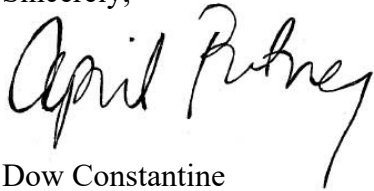
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Service Guidelines. It supports the Equity and Social Justice Strategic Plan by focusing on addressing people and places with the greatest needs.

Thank you for your consideration of Metro's Service Recovery Plan. I look forward to continued engagement with the Council to help shape a strong, equitable, and sustainable future for the transit system.

If your staff have any questions, please contact Christina O'Claire, Mobility Division Director, Metro Transit Department, at 206-477-5801.

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