



King County

Dow Constantine
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December 9, 2024

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 proposed Ordinance that would, if enacted, ratify a negotiated memorandum of agreement (MOA) with the Amalgamated Transit Unit (ATU), representing employees in the Metro Transit Department (MTD). If approved, this Ordinance will enable King County to provide bargained-for wages to employees who perform work in the Vehicle Maintenance Division of MTD.

This MOA covers approximately 40 full-time positions which are part of the sheet metal workers trade classification in the Vehicle Maintenance Division of MTD. The employees in these MTD positions perform frame, body, and related repairs of equipment and general-purpose sheet metal fabrication. Sheet metal fabrication is utilized for body repair, frame straightening, and structural maintenance work on transit coaches and equipment such as buses, trolleys, trucks, cars, cleaners, forklifts, streetcars, line hoisters, and ventilation systems.

This agreement recognizes a regional shortage of skilled, journey-level sheet metal workers. The MOU addresses this shortage by allowing Metro to hire fully qualified sheet metal workers at a higher wage step. It also provides additional training for new hires who are not yet fully qualified to perform sheet metal work for Metro. If this proposed Ordinance is approved, the agreement also provides prospective salary range increases for sheet metal worker and lead sheet metal worker trade classifications. Additionally, the agreement also creates new two-year apprenticeship programs for sheet metal workers and electronic technicians. It also resolves a sheet metal worker's grievance pertaining to work assignments and work jurisdiction.

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The negotiated MOA was reached pursuant to good faith negotiations and collective bargaining between King County and ATU.

A complete breakdown of the costs associated with this agreement can be found in the accompanying fiscal note, which has been reviewed by the Office of Performance, Strategy and Budget. Supplemental budget authority is not needed for this agreement.

Thank you for your consideration of this proposed Ordinance. This important legislation will ratify the negotiated MOA which provides competitive wages necessary to recruit and retain highly qualified sheet metal workers in MTD.

If your staff have questions, please contact Megan Pedersen, Director, Office of Labor Relations, at 206-263-2898.

Sincerely,



for

Dow Constantine
King County Executive

Enclosure

cc: King County Councilmembers
ATTN: Stephanie Cirkovich, Chief of Staff, King County Council
Melani Hay, Clerk of the Council
Karan Gill, Chief of Staff, Office of the Executive
Penny Lipsou, Council Relations Director, Office of the Executive
Dwight Dively, Director, Office of Performance, Strategy and Budget
Megan Pedersen, Director, Office of Labor Relations