April 8, 2016

The Honorable Joe McDermott

Chair, King County Council

Room 1200

C O U R T H O U S E

Dear Councilmember McDermott:

The enclosed ordinance, if approved, will ratify the Professional and Technical Employees, Local 17 (Professional and Technical, Interest Arbitration - Department of Transportation, Metro Transit Division) collective bargaining agreement (CBA) for the period of July 1, 2015, through December 31, 2016, which will enable King County to continue to provide the high quality services provided by the Department of Transportation. This agreement covers approximately 200 employees in the Department of Transportation.

The employees covered by this collective bargaining agreement are integral to the effective and efficient operations of the King County Metro transit system. They are charged with a wide variety of responsibilities including scheduling, routing, market development, route facilities maintenance, sales and customer service. Employees also develop, implement and maintain some information systems technology within the Transit Division. As employees of a transit agency, this group is considered to be eligible for interest arbitration.

Key provisions of this agreement are:

* Updates to the layoff groupings in the contract, stemming from several reorganizations within the Metro Transit Division.
* Changes to the layoff groupings that acknowledge interchangeability of certain job classifications, in order to preserve experienced employees in the workforce.
* A memorandum of agreement (MOA) that establishes a night shift differential for the Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition (SCADA) Technicians who support the Link Light Rail operation.

This agreement contains significant improvements in efficiency, accountability and productivity for the County. For example, the agreement completes the collective bargaining process for the creation of a night shift for SCADA Technicians. Employees who work on this shift will receive a premium, but overall, this should significantly reduce overtime costs.

This agreement furthers the goals of the County’s Strategic Plan by allowing the County to maintain a lean and efficient workforce.

The CBA incorporates the terms of the “Total Compensation” MOA between King County and the King County Coalition of Unions; ratified by King County Council on November 10, 2014, by Ordinance 17916 and is not part of this ordinance.

The settlement reached is a product of good faith collective bargaining between King County and the Union. The agreement compares favorably with other settlements and is within our capacity to finance. This agreement has been reviewed by the Office of the Prosecuting Attorney, Civil Division.

Thank you for your consideration of this ordinance. This important legislation will help King County residents by furthering the objectives of the County’s Strategic Plan through increased efficiencies to process and administration, and supporting the high quality services provided by the Department of Transportation.

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

Sincerely,

Dow Constantine

King County Executive

Enclosures

cc: King County Councilmembers

 ATTN: Carolyn Busch, Chief of Staff

 Anne Noris, Clerk of the Council

 Carrie S. Cihak, Chief of Policy Development, King County Executive Office

 Dwight Dively, Director, Office of Performance, Strategy and Budget

 Megan Pedersen, Interim Director, Office of Labor Relations