## STAFF REPORT

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| **Agenda Item:** | 4 | **Name:** | John Resha |
| **Proposed No**.: | 2016-0533 | **Date:** | November 10, 2016 |

**SUBJECT**

Proposed Ordinance 2016-0533 would update King County Code 2.16.140 to treat passenger only ferry service as a transit service, subject to and integrated with the methodology of the King County Metro Service Guidelines.

**SUMMARY**

This legislation, Proposed Ordinance 2016-0533, would insert the following phrase into K.C.C. 2.16.140.F.4: "that is integrated with and subject to the methodology of the King County Metro Service Guidelines, used to design and modify transit services."

The result of this action would likely translate to the service hours associated with the Passenger Only Ferry service being added to an existing West Seattle-Downtown Seattle transit corridor or an equivalent new corridor for Vashon Island-Downtown Seattle. Additionally, this would likely require evaluation of the performance of the passenger only ferry service as transit routes based on standard performance measures. Thereby allowing policy makers the ability to assess, on a comparable basis to other public transportation, the performance of the passenger only ferry service.

**BACKGROUND**

In 2008, King County Ferry District was established to continue passenger only ferry service. These services are considered public transportation for Federal Transportation Administration purposes and in fact receive federal formula funds based on ridership, as well as other related funds.

These water-born transit services were incorporated into King County in 2014 based on changes in state law and Ordinance 17935.

**ANALYSIS**

Proposed Ordinance 2016-0533 would update the definition of the King County Marine Division in King County Code, such that the service it plans, implements, administers and operates will be integrated with and subject to the methodology of the King County Metro Service Guidelines.

This update would not require a change to the King County Metro Service Guidelines, but it could result in a later decision to reflect Passenger Only Ferry service in the guidelines. However, that is a matter for regional policy makers to determine at a later date.

For purposes of setting transit service levels per the guidelines, this designation would likely result in approximately 2,000 to 2,500 service hours being added to an existing West Seattle-Downtown Seattle transit corridor and approximately 1,000 service hours being added to equivalent new corridor for Vashon Island-Downtown Seattle.

And while this mode of transit service was not contemplated in the development of the guidelines, after working with Metro Transit Division staff, they have determined that the characteristics of passenger only ferry service mimic Peak Overlay service and would be subject to those King County Metro Service Guidelines performance measures and standards.

**ATTACHMENTS**

1. Proposed Ordinance 2016-0533