



**King County**

**CONFIRMATION PACKET FOR  
ROBERT GANNON  
AS THE GENERAL MANAGER  
OF THE TRANSIT DIVISION  
KING COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF  
TRANSPORTATION**

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## SECTION A

- Letter from Executive Dow Constantine to King County Council Chair Joe McDermott to Announce Appointment
- Copy of Confirmation Motion
- News Release on Appointment
- Letters in Support of Appointment

October XX, 2016

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

Dear Councilmember McDermott:

I am pleased to present the enclosed motion for County Council's approval to confirm Robert Gannon as the General Manager of the Transit Division of the King County Department of Transportation, effective October 25, 2016.

On March 19, 2016, Harold Taniguchi, appointed Mr. Gannon to serve in an acting capacity to direct the Metro Transit Division of the King County Department of Transportation. Since his appointment, Mr. Gannon's knowledge of the organization has helped inform Metro's budget, including capital investments, service hours and staff development.

Mr. Gannon has served well during this period of transition, and I am confident in his ability to serve as the permanent replacement for the head of the Metro Transit Division.

During his time as Acting General Manager, Mr. Gannon ably demonstrated that he will be a leader in reaching our shared goals of increasing mobility in the region, improving outcomes for residents and employees by increasing opportunity and equity, addressing climate change and instituting meaningful reforms that improve the effectiveness and efficiency of King County governance.

Mr. Gannon's work with Metro Transit's nationally recognized Partnership to Achieve Comprehensive Equity (PACE) helped improve communications among Metro Transit's employees and created a workplace that respects and embraces diversity. From working with law enforcement and youth advocates on fare enforcement, to meeting with community members to talk about bus shelters, Mr. Gannon had made personal connections that help move Metro forward, always keeping the customer experience in the forefront.

The Honorable Joe McDermott  
October XX, 2016  
Page 2

It is my great pleasure to request the confirmation of Mr. Gannon as the General Manager of the Transit Division of the King County Department of Transportation.

Sincerely,

Dow Constantine  
King County Executive

Enclosure

cc: King County Councilmembers  
    ATTN: Carolyn Busch, Chief of Staff  
          Melani Pedroza, Acting Clerk of the Council  
          Carrie S. Cihak, Chief of Policy Development, King County Executive Office  
          Dwight Dively, Director, Office of Performance, Strategy and Budget  
          Harold Taniguchi, Director, Department of Transportation (DOT)  
          Caroline Whalen, County Administrative Officer, Department of Executive  
          Services (DES)  
          Susan Slonecker, Interim Acting Director, Human Resources Division, DES  
          Rob Gannon, General Manager, Metro Transit Division, DOT Designee

Date Created:	<b>October 25, 2016</b>
Drafted by:	<b>Richard Hayes, Sr. HR Policy Advisor, DES/HRD, 477-3242</b>
Sponsors:	
Attachments:	None

1 ..title

2                   A MOTION confirming the King County department of  
3                   transportation director's appointment of Robert Gannon as  
4                   the general manager of the transit division of the King  
5                   County department of transportation.

6 ..body

7                   BE IT MOVED by the Council of King County;

8                   The King County department of transportation director's appointment of Robert  
9                   Gannon as the general manager of the transit division of the department of transportation  
10                  is hereby confirmed.

Oct. 25, 2016

Contact: [Alex Fryer](#), 206-477-7966

## **Executive Constantine names new GM for Metro, the nation's 10th largest transit service**

King County Executive Dow Constantine named Rob Gannon as General Manager for Metro Transit. Gannon currently serves as interim General Manager. His position is subject to confirmation by the King County Council.

Gannon, 47, served as Interim General Manager from March 2016 until now. He was Metro Deputy General Manager from 2013-2016, and Human Resources Manager for the King County Department of Transportation from 2011-2013. He previously oversaw budget and labor relations at the University of Montana.

"As our region grows and becomes ever more reliant on fast, efficient transit, Rob is the right person to lead Metro," said Executive Constantine. "Rob guided the creation of Metro's long range plan. Now is the time to implement our vision. It's about hiring the right people, creating a workplace that is second to none, and constantly focusing on the rider experience."

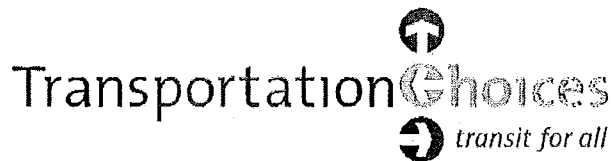
Metro provides a wide range of services, including more than 200 bus routes plus RapidRide lines, Demand Area Response Transit (DART), and operation of the City of Seattle's streetcar system.

In addition to those fixed-route services, Metro offers accessible services for people with disabilities, commuter vanpools, and alternative services in communities where regular bus routes aren't the best solution for local transportation needs.

Metro also operates Sound Transit's Link light rail and most of its Regional Express bus service in King County under contract, and is reimbursed for the operating costs and relevant capital costs.

Transit accounts for 23.4 percent of King County's approximately \$11.3 billion 2017-2018 budget. Metro has its own dedicated funding sources and relies on sales tax for more than half of its total budget. Other significant revenue sources include fares, federal grants and revenue from contract services.

[Read the full story online](#)



King County Council  
516 3<sup>rd</sup> Ave, Room 1200  
Seattle, WA 98104

Dear King County Council Members,

I am writing in strong support of the appointment of Rob Gannon as General Manager of King County Metro. As the Executive Director of Transportation Choices Coalition, I have had the pleasure to witness the strong leadership he has demonstrated as the interim leader at Metro.

King County Metro continues to be at the leading edge of innovation under Rob's leadership. The development and implementation of the nation's most expansive low-income transit fare program, ORCA LIFT, in which Rob played an important role, speaks to this innovation. He has also recently been instrumental in supporting the development of Metro's first long range plan, METRO Connects, which provides a map for how expanded rail and buses can work together to provide the mobility network that our rapidly growing region needs.

One of the best attributes for Rob Gannon is not something most people will see. He has impressed me as being concerned with building a strong workforce and the support services people need to innovate and succeed at Metro. It is critical that Metro adapts to the growth we are seeing regionally by continuing to build a solid foundation for the future. Rob's leadership in focusing on attracting talent to Metro, improving work conditions, providing training and pathways for advancement, and investing in infrastructure needs is exactly what Metro needs to have long term success.

I believe Rob Gannon is the right choice to lead King County Metro at this important time for our region. I look forward to working with him in the future. Please don't hesitate to contact me if I can be of further help to you as you make your decision. I can be reached at [shefali@transportationchoices.org](mailto:shefali@transportationchoices.org) or 206-329-2336.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Shefali R".

Shefali Ranganathan  
Executive Director  
Transportation Choices Coalition





# Puget Sound Regional Council

1011 WESTERN AVENUE, SUITE 500 SEATTLE, WA 98104 • 206-464-7090 [psrc.org](http://psrc.org)

November 2, 2016

Metropolitan King County Council  
516 Third Avenue, Room 1200  
Seattle, WA 98104

**Re: Appointment of Rob Gannon to the position of General Manager for Metro Transit**

Dear Council Members:

I am writing in support of Rob Gannon's confirmation as General Manager for Metro Transit. Rob is an outstanding choice to head up one of the nation's premier transit agencies.

Every day hundreds of thousands of people depend on Metro to get where they need to go. Data show that overall transit ridership is at an all-time high in our region and continues to accelerate as our economy booms. As the largest provider of transit service in the region with more than 71 million boardings annually, Metro is critically important to the region's mobility and quality of life.

I've gotten to know Rob as a thoughtful, dedicated leader on the regional transit executive committee, which meets regularly to share best practices and improve regional transit integration. I've been impressed by Rob's connection with all levels of Metro employees, who show confidence in his commitment to a safe and professional work environment.

At PSRC, we coordinate closely with Metro on long-range planning and funding for transit. Rob is a collaborative leader who played a key role in creating Metro's long range plan, Metro Connects, and supports ongoing regional transit coordination. A highlight in the last year has been his oversight of successful route restructuring and integration work related to the opening of new Link light rail service to the UW and Capitol Hill.

Rob is well prepared to guide implementation of Metro's long-range plan to increase service to meet growing demand and continue efforts to improve safety for passengers and employees. PSRC recently awarded more than \$179 million in regionally managed federal funds to King County for bus replacements, maintenance, and other projects through 2020. Rob's exceptional skills in managing the complex operations of a large government organization will be an asset as Metro puts these dollars to work to ensure continued excellent service for the region's transit riders.

Rob will excel as General Manager and is an exceptional choice to lead Metro forward. He's a leader the region can count on.

Sincerely,

Josh Brown, Executive Director  
Puget Sound Regional Council



November 9, 2016

The Honorable Joe McDermott  
King County Council  
516 Third Avenue, Room 1200  
Seattle, WA 98104

Dear Chair ~~McDermott~~: *Joe:*

I am writing to express my strong support for the confirmation of Rob Gannon as General Manager of King County Metro Transit.

I have worked with Rob since January of this year, when I started as Chief Executive Officer at Sound Transit. Since that time, I have been impressed by the breadth of Rob's experience and knowledge, as well as his understanding of the key role that an integrated, safe, and efficient transit system plays in the future of King County.

Rob has a strong reputation as a people-oriented leader and an astute and practical problem-solver. He oversaw the development of King County Metro's long range transit plan and has cultivated a heightened organizational focus on increasing safety, maintaining a strong workforce, and providing world-class customer service to Metro riders. He is a trusted and proven regional transit leader with good judgement and strategic sense, as he has demonstrated most recently over the last nine months as Interim General Manager for King County Metro.

As a partner to Sound Transit, Rob has shown the ability to communicate and collaborate effectively toward common goals. One key example of his collaborative and solutions-focused approach would be his role in Sound Transit's negotiations with King County Metro over property and transit operations for the planned Northgate Light Rail Station and Transit Center, slated to open in 2021. Rob was able to move beyond what might otherwise have been impasses, and helped us reach equitable resolutions to several persistent and complex issues.

Rob is a knowledgeable, dedicated transit leader, and it is without hesitation that I recommend his confirmation to the position of General Manager of King County Metro Transit. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at (206) 398-5450.

Sincerely,

Peter M. Rogoff  
Chief Executive Officer

- CHAIR**  
**Dow Constantine**  
*King County Executive*
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*King County Councilmember*
- Peter von Reichbauer**  
*King County Councilmember*

**CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER**  
**Peter M. Rogoff**



November 9, 2016

The Honorable Claudia Balducci  
King County Council  
516 Third Avenue, Room 1200  
Seattle, WA 98104

Dear Councilmember Balducci:

I am writing to express my strong support for the confirmation of Rob Gannon as General Manager of King County Metro Transit.

I have worked with Rob since January of this year, when I started as Chief Executive Officer at Sound Transit. Since that time, I have been impressed by the breadth of Rob's experience and knowledge, as well as his understanding of the key role that an integrated, safe, and efficient transit system plays in the future of King County.

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Sincerely,

Peter M. Rogoff  
Chief Executive Officer

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*King County Executive*

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**Peter M. Rogoff**



November 9, 2016

The Honorable Rod Dembowski  
King County Council  
516 Third Avenue, Room 1200  
Seattle, WA 98104

Dear Vice Chair Dembowski:

I am writing to express my strong support for the confirmation of Rob Gannon as General Manager of King County Metro Transit.

I have worked with Rob since January of this year, when I started as Chief Executive Officer at Sound Transit. Since that time, I have been impressed by the breadth of Rob's experience and knowledge, as well as his understanding of the key role that an integrated, safe, and efficient transit system plays in the future of King County.

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Peter M. Rogoff  
Chief Executive Officer

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*King County Councilmember*

**CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER**

**Peter M. Rogoff**



November 9, 2016

The Honorable Reagan Dunn  
King County Council  
516 Third Avenue, Room 1200  
Seattle, WA 98104

Dear Vice Chair Dunn:

I am writing to express my strong support for the confirmation of Rob Gannon as General Manager of King County Metro Transit.

I have worked with Rob since January of this year, when I started as Chief Executive Officer at Sound Transit. Since that time, I have been impressed by the breadth of Rob's experience and knowledge, as well as his understanding of the key role that an integrated, safe, and efficient transit system plays in the future of King County.

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Sincerely,

Peter M. Rogoff  
Chief Executive Officer

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*King County Councilmember*

**CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER**  
**Peter M. Rogoff**



November 9, 2016

The Honorable Larry Gossett  
King County Council  
516 Third Avenue, Room 1200  
Seattle, WA 98104

Dear Councilmember Gossett:

I am writing to express my strong support for the confirmation of Rob Gannon as General Manager of King County Metro Transit.

I have worked with Rob since January of this year, when I started as Chief Executive Officer at Sound Transit. Since that time, I have been impressed by the breadth of Rob's experience and knowledge, as well as his understanding of the key role that an integrated, safe, and efficient transit system plays in the future of King County.

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Sincerely,

Peter M. Rogoff  
Chief Executive Officer

Central Puget Sound Regional Transit Authority • Union Station  
401 S. Jackson St., Seattle, WA 98104-2826 • Reception: (206) 398-5000 • FAX: (206) 398-5499  
www.soundtransit.org

**CHAIR**

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*King County Councilmember*

**CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER**

**Peter M. Rogoff**



November 9, 2016

The Honorable Jeanne Kohl-Welles  
King County Council  
516 Third Avenue, Room 1200  
Seattle, WA 98104

Dear Councilmember Kohl-Welles:

I am writing to express my strong support for the confirmation of Rob Gannon as General Manager of King County Metro Transit.

I have worked with Rob since January of this year, when I started as Chief Executive Officer at Sound Transit. Since that time, I have been impressed by the breadth of Rob's experience and knowledge, as well as his understanding of the key role that an integrated, safe, and efficient transit system plays in the future of King County.

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Chief Executive Officer

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*King County Councilmember*

**CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER**

**Peter M. Rogoff**



November 9, 2016

The Honorable Kathy Lambert  
King County Council  
516 Third Avenue, Room 1200  
Seattle, WA 98104

Dear Councilmember Lambert:

I am writing to express my strong support for the confirmation of Rob Gannon as General Manager of King County Metro Transit.

I have worked with Rob since January of this year, when I started as Chief Executive Officer at Sound Transit. Since that time, I have been impressed by the breadth of Rob's experience and knowledge, as well as his understanding of the key role that an integrated, safe, and efficient transit system plays in the future of King County.

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Sincerely,

Peter M. Rogoff  
Chief Executive Officer

**CHAIR**

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**CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER**

**Peter M. Rogoff**