June 7, 2019

The Honorable Rod Dembowski

Chair, King County Council

Room 1200

C O U R T H O U S E

Dear Councilmember Dembowski:

I am pleased to submit the enclosed motion for the King County Council to approve the *2019* *King County Metro Transit Title VI Program Report*.

The Federal Transit Administration (FTA) circular FTA C 4702.1B requires that King County Metro Transit, as a direct recipient of FTA funding, prepare a Title VI program report every three years. FTA regulations require that the Title VI program be approved by a transit provider’s board of directors or appropriate governing entity responsible for policy decisions prior to submission to the FTA. The report must be submitted to FTA by October 1, 2019.

According to FTA C 4702.1B Chapter II-1 Section 1, the purpose of Title VI is to:

1. *Ensure that the level and quality of public transportation service is provided in a nondiscriminatory manner;*
2. *Promote full and fair participation in public transportation decision-making without regard to race, color, or national origin;*
3. *Ensure meaningful access to transit-related programs and activities by persons with limited English proficiency.*

The *2019* *King County Metro Transit Title VI Program Report* meets the requirements of the FTA and documents Metro’s efforts to serve minority, low-income, and limited-English proficiency (LEP) populations in King County.

Metro’s report includes a description of Metro’s Title VI notice and procedures, a public participation plan, a language assistance plan, and an analysis of how Metro service is implemented in low-income and minority communities. In addition, the report compiles the Title VI equity analysis completed for each major service, fare or fee change implemented between July 2016 and June 2019.

The Title VI program report describes how Metro complies with federal civil rights regulations outlined by FTA. It describes the efforts Metro has taken during the last three years to ensure that transit service was provided in non-discriminatory ways, including all proposed service and fare changes that were considered during that time period. It includes a description of the ways that Metro serves minority, low-income, and LEP communities, including an analysis of the service Metro provides and descriptions of efforts such as outreach and engagement, translation and interpretation services, customer satisfaction research, transit rider education, in-language work with community-based organizations, and efforts to ensure that transit is accessible and affordable to all people in our community.

The report supports the Strategic Plan for Equity and Social Justice by documenting Metro’s work to better advance equity through our operations. It also documents our efforts to advance goals in the Strategic Plan for Public Transportation, specifically “provide equitable opportunities for people from all areas of King County to access the public transportation system” and “provide travel opportunities and supporting amenities for historically disadvantaged populations, such as low-income people, students, youth, seniors, people of color, people with disabilities, and others with limited transportation options.” In addition, the report summarizes Metro’s efforts to provide translation and interpretation services to LEP communities consistent with the requirements adopted through Ordinance 18665.

It is estimated that this report required 400 staff hours to produce, costing $24,000. The report will be available online.

Thank you for your consideration of this motion. The *2019* *King County Metro Transit Title VI Program Report* will help King County residents understand how Metro is making the best use of the County’s transit resources to deliver high-quality services in an equitable manner that get people where they want to go.

If you have any questions, please contact John Resha, Assistant General Manager for Finance and Administration, at 206-477-0889, or via email at john.resha@kingcounty.gov.

Sincerely,

Dow Constantine

King County Executive

Enclosures

cc: King County Councilmembers

 ATTN: Carolyn Busch, Chief of Staff

 Melani Pedroza, Clerk of the Council

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

 Rob Gannon, General Manager, Metro Transit Department

 John Resha, Assistant General Manager, Finance and Administration, Metro