



King County

Dow Constantine

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December 11, 2020

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

Dear Councilmember Balducci:

As required by Ordinance 17143, this letter transmits to the King County Council the *King County Metro Transit 2020 System Evaluation* and a proposed motion that, if enacted, would accept the report. Ordinance 17597, which amended Ordinance 17143 to change the reporting timeline, requires that this report be transmitted by October 31 of each year. The system evaluation is being transmitted past its original deadline per Motion 15620.

In past years, Metro has created this annual report using data from March through June, reflecting Metro's spring service change. Because of the impacts of COVID-19, for this report Metro used information from the September 2019 service change to early March 2020. The report therefore measures the last major service change before COVID-19 emerged, although some early impacts of COVID-19 are reflected in the data.

The system evaluation is based on Metro's *Service Guidelines*, which help Metro plan and manage the transit system and share with the public the basis of proposals to expand, reduce, or revise service. In fall 2019 and spring 2020, Metro invested 19,400 annual service hours in the transit system to meet needs identified in previous years. The *2020 System Evaluation* identifies a systemwide need for 438,000 more annual service hours: 2,750 hours to relieve crowding, 18,250 hours to improve reliability, and 420,000 hours for service growth on major transit corridors.

This report includes information about Metro's Flexible Service program (also known as Community Connections of Alternative Services), responding to the Motion 13736 requirement for an annual progress report on the *King County Metro Transit Five-Year Implementation Plan for Alternatives to Traditional Transit Service Delivery*. The report includes performance data for Metro's flexible service pilots that were in the evaluation stage between the September 2019-March 2020 service period. These flexible

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services have been developed with local governments and community partners to deliver innovative and cost-efficient transportation solutions in areas of King County that do not have the infrastructure, density, or land use to support regular bus service. The report also evaluates King County Water Taxi services, in compliance with Ordinance 18413.

METRO CONNECTS, Metro's long-range plan, took a bold step in defining the region's future public transportation needs. Approximately 2 million additional service hours are needed to achieve the METRO CONNECTS vision, which is aligned with the Puget Sound Regional Council's *Transportation 2040* plan and integrated with Sound Transit's expansion plans. The system evaluation assesses METRO CONNECTS' progress and performance metrics.

The report demonstrates Metro support of the *King County Strategic Plan* mobility goal of delivering a safe, reliable, and seamless network of transportation options to get people and goods where they need to go, when they need to get there and the efficient and accountable regional and local government goal. It also demonstrates Metro's strong support for the *2016-2022 Equity and Social Justice Strategic Plan* by quantifying the investments Metro needed to deliver systemic and equitable services by providing more transit service and more travel options to more places in King County. The report also illustrates how Metro is encouraging transit use, improving the reliability and efficiency of transit service, and reducing the need for driving by investing resources where public transportation needs are greatest, furthering the *King County Strategic Climate Action Plan* goals.

It is estimated that this report required 350 staff hours to produce, costing approximately \$20,300.

Thank you for your consideration of this report and proposed motion.

If your staff have any questions, please contact Christina O'Claire, Mobility Division Director for King County Metro Transit, at 206-477-5801.

Sincerely,



Dow Constantine
King County Executive

Enclosures

cc:

King County Councilmembers

ATTN: Carolyn Busch, Chief of Staff
Melani Pedroza, Clerk of the Council

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

Shannon Braddock, Deputy Chief of Staff, Executive Office

Karan Gill, Director of Council Relations, Executive Office

Terry White, Interim General Manager, Metro Transit Department

Christina O'Claire, Director, Mobility Division, Metro Transit Department Metro