## STAFF REPORT

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| **Agenda Items:** | 5 - 9 | **Name:** | Leah Krekel-Zoppi |
| **Proposed No**.: | 2021-00802021-00812021-00822021-00842021-0085 | **Date:** | February 24, 2021 |

**SUBJECT**

Proposed Motions 2021-0080, 2021-0081, 2021-0082, 2021-0084, and 2021-0085 would confirm the appointments of Oskar Abian, Eulalie Mathieu, Sonja Tracy, Minal Barahimi Martin, and Kevin Pelstring to the King County Transit Advisory Commission (TAC).

**BACKGROUND**

The Transit Advisory Commission (TAC) is a permanent group that is established in the King County Code[[1]](#footnote-1) to advise Metro Transit, the Executive, the Council, local jurisdictions, and the subarea transportation forums on transit issues and policy, including matters of concern to the elderly and persons with disabilities, as well as major planning exercises such as service changes and long-range planning efforts. The TAC also serves as a resource for transit promotion.

The TAC is to have 18 members who are appointed by the Executive and confirmed by the Council. Members are to include:

* Nine members who are transit riders, recruited by Metro Transit to reflect the diversity and geographic distribution of County residents; and
* Nine members who are either seniors or persons with disabilities or who represent agencies that serve those group, recruited by Metro Transit to reflect the diversity of the communities they represents, types of disabilities, and geographic distribution of County residents.

The TAC develops an annual work plan and meets regularly to address that work plan. In addition the TAC designates one member to each sounding board[[2]](#footnote-2) that is convened to consider specific transit topics.

**APPOINTEE INFORMATION**

**Appointee Oskar Abian.** Proposed Motion 2021-0080 would confirm the Executive's appointment of Oskar Abian, who resides in Council District 2, to the TAC for a partial term to expire on August 31, 2022.

Mr. Abian earned a degree in Urban Planning from the University of Washington, is a frequent transit rider, and has a family member who is a transit operator for Metro. Additionally, Mr. Abian was a member of the Lake City Planning Group.

In his application, Mr. Abian stated, "I bring a passion for the issues addressed by the commission, and an in-depth knowledge of the Puget Sound region."

**Appointee Eulalie Mathieu.** Proposed Motion 2021-0081 would confirm the appointment of Eulalie Mathieu, who resides in Council District 4, to the TAC for a partial term to expire on August 31, 2022.

Ms. Mathieu describes herself as, "a young person who relies on King County Metro as my primary form of transportation." She is a student at the University of Washington Honors College, and a volunteer for the Seattle Youth Climate Action Network Youth Leadership Team and for Zero Hour.

In her application, Ms. Mathieu states that she is, "passionate about transit equity and climate justice," and would bring her experience organizing youth participation in climate justice events to the TAC.

**Appointee Sonja Tracy.** Proposed Motion 2021-0082 would confirm the appointment of Sonja Tracy, who resides in Council District 5, to the TAC for a partial term to expire on August 31, 2022.

Ms. Tracy is a daily transit rider who identifies as being a person with a disability. She previously helped advocate for public transportation in Arlington, Texas where she served as a social worker working with refugees. She has previously served on the METRO Connects Community Advisory Group and the Transit Connections Sounding Board.

In her application, Ms. Tracy states, "As someone who relies mainly on public transit I have direct experience of the joy and exasperation of accessing this mode of travel on

a daily basis. I believe I can bring a deeper insight into help planning transportation for this area."

**Appointee Minal Barahimi Martin.** Proposed Motion 2021-0084 would confirm the appointment of Minal Barahimi Martin, who resides in Council District 6, to the TAC for a partial term to expire on August 31, 2022.

Ms. Barahimi Martin is a Fellow for the American Civil Liberties Union of Washington. In her application, she states, "I have dedicated my career to social justice issues--researching, teaching, writing about them in the context of immigration enforcement, as well as working in service of social justice causes including worker rights, voter rights, and immigrant rights. My work/academic/research background make me uniquely suited to see transit policy through the lens of social justice and equity and to understand the value of effective, efficient, accessible, and affordable public transit, especially for disadvantaged communities."

**Appointee Kevin Pelstring.** Proposed Motion 2021-0085 would confirm the appointment of Kevin Pelstring, who resides in Council District 4, to the TAC for a partial term to expire on August 31, 2021.

Mr. Pelistring is a Budget Analyst for the City of Kirkland and earned a Master's in Public Administration from the University of Washington. He is a daily transit rider.

In his application, Mr. Pelstring stated, "I feel that given my MPA degree, my experience as a transit-dependent resident of King County and interest in public transit and equity, and my professional experience in local government decision-making, I am the most qualified candidate for this appointment."

**ANALYSIS**

Staff has not identified any issues with the proposed appointments. They appear to be consistent with the requirements of county code.

**ATTACHMENTS**

1. Proposed Motion 2021-0080
2. Transmittal Letter for 2021-0080
3. Proposed Motion 2021-0081
4. Transmittal Letter for 2021-0081
5. Proposed Motion 2021-0082
6. Transmittal Letter for 2021-0082
7. Proposed Motion 2021-0084
8. Transmittal Letter for 2021-0084
9. Proposed Motion 2021-0085
10. Transmittal Letter for 2021-0085
1. K.C.C. 2.124.010.B [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. K.C.C. 2.124.010.A [↑](#footnote-ref-2)