

February 8th, 2021

Terry White, General Manager
King County Metro Transit
201 South Jackson Street
Seattle, WA 98104

RE: Support for proposed North Link Connections Mobility Project service change

Dear Mr. White,

This letter is to express my support for the proposed North Link Connections Project service changes in King County. Representing the City of Seattle Immigrant and Refugee Commission, I actively participated in the Partner Review Board and was included in outreach to the community. We look forward to continuing the work with King County Metro as the project moves forward to implementation.

The proposed service changes address specific priority needs identified by the Mobility Board, consisting of community members from priority populations in Seattle and North King County. We support the added all-day service frequency as well as the re-orientation of direct service to Downtown Seattle and U-District, and investment in frequent connections to Northgate reduces will help riders avoid traffic. Timing the new routes to be able to make connections with the new Link Light Rail stations is critical to this effort, and we commend Metro and Sound transit for collaborating closely on creating a welcoming transfer environment while riders adjust to a two-seat ride. Furthermore, we have stressed the need for increased accessibility and clear messaging at transfer points.

I am grateful to Metro for conducting an inclusive outreach process even during a pandemic, with continuous attendance at public events, stakeholder interviews, online surveys, and online meetings. We look forward to continuing our partnership with Metro through implementation of these service changes as we collectively seek to improve mobility and service delivery in Seattle and North King County for those most in need. If you have further questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Naheed Gina Aaftaab". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Naheed Gina Aaftaab

Co-chair

City of Seattle Immigrant and Refugee Commission

Naheedirc1@gmail.com