

February 9, 2021

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

RE: Proposed North Link Connections Mobility Project

Dear Mr. White,

This letter replaces the letter we sent last week. I am writing to express my support, subject to our comments below, on behalf of the City of Kenmore, for the effort on the proposed North Link Connections Project service changes in King County. We look forward to continuing the work with King County Metro as the project moves forward to implementation. Metro Transit staff provided a briefing to our City Council on January 25, which was also viewed by the community via Zoom.

We realize the challenges that transit providers face with uncertain economic and workplace conditions, as well as the opportunity to coordinate with added transit choices, as Link Light Rail services are extended northward. 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.

The proposed service changes address specific priority needs identified by the Mobility Board, consisting of community members from priority populations. We support the added all-day service frequency as well as service to Downtown Seattle and U-District, but we hope that additional attention is paid to ensuring that there is adequate direct, one seat service available from Kenmore to Downtown Seattle from either Sound Transit BRT or King County Metro, for those passengers who desire direct service. We would also appreciate additional information on the how the proposed changes in service affect total travel time between Kenmore and Downtown Seattle compared to current service, and how Metro can ensure there is adequate seating capacity for riders on light rail at the points that riders transfer from buses and BRT.

Kenmore is pleased that Metro conducted an inclusive outreach process through the pandemic, with attendance at public events, stakeholder interviews, online surveys, Partner Review Boards, and online meetings with Kenmore staff. We look forward to continuing our partnership with Metro through implementation of these and future service changes such as East Link Connections, as we collectively seek to improve mobility and service delivery in King County.

18120 68th Ave NE, Kenmore, WA 98028

Terry White February 9, 2021 Page 2

We encourage the King County Council to adopt the proposed North Link Connections Mobility Project service changes with implementation in September 2021, with our recommendations above, as it represents progress towards delivering frequent, reliable service, and all-day transit options for residents of the region.

If you have further questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Respectfully,

David Baker, Mayor City of Kenmore

CC: King County Executive Dow Constantine King County Council Chair Claudia Balducci

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