

April 21, 2021

Dear King County Council, and Members of the Regional Transit Committee,

On behalf of the King County Metro Equity Cabinet and organizations representing transit riders across King County, we are writing to express our continued support for the Mobility Framework, the proposed changes to the Service Guidelines and a regional equity approach to reductions, restructures, and more. Our group works regionally to improve opportunities and mobility for all people, and applauds the Mobility Framework and subsequent policy development as an example of community-informed policymaking.

Almost two years ago we stood before you and asked you to pass the Mobility Framework, citing the growing disparities in transportation. Today COVID has not only laid bare but exacerbated those disparities created by historic policies and planning efforts.

Through COVID, we've learned who is truly dependent on transit, doing essential work throughout the county; the information we've gleaned tracks with what we learned through the Mobility Framework process about where needs for investment, largely due to historic underinvestment, are greatest.

As incredible new high-capacity transit service comes online throughout the county, we must seize the opportunity to use these hours both to sustain and improve local connections to LINK, and as well as help fill persistent and harmful gaps in service in areas of greatest need to help ensure an equitable and regional system.

It is more urgent than ever to adopt policies that invest in these places. This is the best approach to serve the most riders without leaving anyone behind, while helping to address climate, economic development, and regional prosperity for all.

We will continue to fight for full funding for King County Metro, such that fast, frequent, and reliable service will be a given for every person in the county. In the interim, we must focus on lifting up those who have been denied service historically, and help create pathways to opportunity regardless of where they live. **We know that all people, including people who don't drive, need to travel throughout the county to reach jobs, education and the people in their lives.**

We are grateful to Metro staff for their equity focused engagement, process and proposals in this vein. We know that the staff have gone the extra mile in engaging the equity cabinet and BIPOC communities in these important discussions.

Sincerely,

Tony To, King County Metro Equity Cabinet Co-chair, Central Seattle resident

Sarneshea Evans, King County Metro Equity Cabinet Co-chair, North Seattle resident

Ellany Kayce (Tlingit Nation), King County Metro Equity Cabinet member, South Seattle resident

Niesha Fort-Brooks, King County Metro Cabinet Member, North Seattle resident

Alex Mayo, King County Metro Equity Cabinet Member

Anna Zivarts, Disability Mobility Initiative, Disability Rights WA

Leyila Mustefa, King County Metro Equity Cabinet Member and Youth for Equitable Streets

Transportation Choices Coalition

Seattle King County Coalition on Homelessness

Transit Riders Union

OneAmerica

Puget Sound Sage