



King County

Dow Constantine

King County Executive
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October 8, 2021

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

Dear Councilmember Balducci:

This letter transmits a proposed Ordinance that would, if enacted, authorize King County to enter into an agreement with Eastrail Partners, a non-profit organization, for the funding and construction of the non-motorized 520 Connector to the Eastrail.

This proposed legislation identifies up to \$500,000 in King County Parks funding to match \$2,000,000 raised by Eastrail Partners from private donors. The funding has already been appropriated for this purpose (Ordinance 19210), and no supplemental budget requests are needed at this time. If approved, this proposed legislation enables Eastrail Partners to use the funds to design, permit and construct the 520 Connector to the Eastrail after receiving required approvals from King County. King County funding would only be utilized if project costs exceed \$2,000,000. This connector will be approximately 400 feet in length. Once completed, King County would own, operate, and maintain the connector.

The proposed legislation would ensure the completion of a significant trail connection in this region's recreation and non-motorized transportation system. The 520 Connector will connect the 520 Trail to the Eastrail and will provide a safe and efficient trail route for trail users. As significant connections like these are made, communities are afforded the opportunity for recreation that can reduce health factors that are linked to obesity, diabetes, chronic illness, and reduced life expectancy. Businesses recognize the value of increasing non-motorized transportation options for their customers and employees and have provided resources to make this connection possible. These resources include donations of \$1,000,000 each from REI and Facebook, which together comprise the \$2,000,000 of funding raised by Eastrail Partners,

As the eastside of King County continues to face unprecedented growth, non-profits, businesses, and governments are coming together to develop transportation solutions by improving access and safety. Execution of this proposed legislation furthers the King County Strategic Plan goal of mobility by increasing the integration between transportation modes, including multiple Park and Ride facilities and a Link Light Rail station. This integration also increases the Strategic Climate Action Plan goal of providing and encouraging the use of

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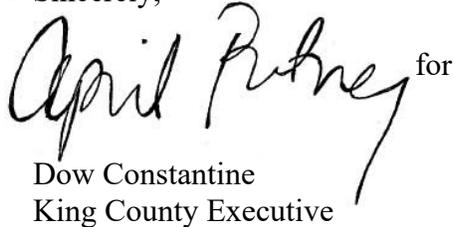
Page 2

sustainable transportation choices by increasing the availability of transportation options for trail users.

Thank you for your consideration of this proposed Ordinance. This important legislation will give trail users increased access to an inter-connected, non-motorized active transportation network for more efficient mobility and safe and healthy recreation.

If your staff have any questions, please contact Warren Jimenez, Division Director, Parks and Recreation Division, Department of Natural Resources and Parks, at 206-477-4525.

Sincerely,

 for
Dow Constantine
King County Executive

Enclosure

cc: King County Councilmembers

ATTN: Janine Weihe, Interim Chief of Staff

Melani Pedroza, Clerk of the Council

Shannon Braddock, Deputy Chief of Staff, Office of the Executive

Karan Gill, Director, Council Relations, Office of the Executive

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

Christie True, Director, Department of Natural Resources and Parks (DNRP)

Warren Jimenez, Division Director, Parks and Recreation Division, DNRP