



Legislation Text

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Clerk 08/21/2014

AN ORDINANCE relating to the operation and maintenance of the Seattle Streetcar on behalf of the city of Seattle; adopting an amended and restated agreement between King County and the city of Seattle.

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE COUNCIL OF KING COUNTY:

SECTION 1. Findings:

- A. The Municipality of Metropolitan Seattle was authorized by public vote in 1972 to perform the metropolitan transportation functions of a metropolitan municipal corporation.
- B. In 1994, King County assumed the rights, powers, functions and obligations of the Municipality of Metropolitan Seattle in accordance with chapter 36.56 RCW; consequently, all the powers and functions of the Municipality of Metropolitan Seattle have been vested by state law in the legislative authority of King County.
- C. In 2007, and as authorized by King County Ordinance 15860, the city and the county entered into an interlocal agreement under which the county agreed to operate and maintain the South Lake Union streetcar line for benefit of the city and the public.
- D. Under RCW 35.21.925, the city is authorized to construct supplemental transportation projects within the city's boundaries. Under that and other authority, the city intends to construct and own, and has begun construction on, a 2.5-mile streetcar running from Jackson and Occidental Streets to Broadway and Denny Way, which is the location of the new Link Light Rail Station on Capitol Hill. The First Hill streetcar line will connect the Capitol Hill, First Hill, Yesler Terrace, Chinatown/International District, Little Saigon, a corner of the Central District and Pioneer Square neighborhoods with downtown Seattle and connections to

other regional and local transit services and thereby increase transit ridership and reduce single occupancy vehicle trips to and from those neighborhoods. The city contemplates that over time it may construct and own additional streetcar lines.

E. The city has experience in building a streetcar as the owner of the existing South Lake Union streetcar line and the original owner of the former Waterfront streetcar line.

F. King County has experience operating and maintaining streetcars in the city as operator of the former Waterfront Streetcar and the existing South Lake Union streetcar line, as well as operating and maintaining the existing Central Link light rail system on behalf of Sound Transit.

G. Consistent with RCW 35.58.610, it is the objective of King County to coordinate transit service in established urban centers and work with local jurisdictions to pursue innovative solutions and partnerships. A long-term master agreement with the city for streetcar services is consistent with those objectives.

H. King County, through development of the Strategic Plan for Public Transportation 2011-2021, may adopt new policy concerning streetcar operations.

SECTION 2. The county executive is hereby authorized to execute, substantially in the form of Attachment A to this ordinance, an amended and restated interlocal agreement between King County and the city of Seattle for the operation and maintenance of the Seattle Streetcar.

SECTION 3. The county executive may not approve a written extension of the interlocal agreement, or negotiate a revised agreement that is inconsistent with the Strategic Plan for Public Transportation in effect at the time of the approval.

SECTION 4. If any provision of this ordinance or its application to any person or circumstance is held invalid, the remainder of the ordinance or the application of the provision to other persons or circumstances is not affected.