

Nov. 10, 2020

Dear King County Councilmembers,

Across the country, agencies and advocates look to King County Metro as national leader in transit equity work. From standing up a resourced equity cabinet to creating a Mobility Framework to guide its policy and planning, Metro is at the forefront of undoing racism and historical disinvestment in transportation. The 2021 budget is an opportunity to continue this leadership, and to begin implementing this pioneering work.

As such, we have strong concerns regarding proposals in the budget striker (P6 & P7) that go against adopted equity policies, as well as goals the County and Metro have been working toward for years. Hours should be distributed regionally based on the adopted Mobility Framework, which clearly considers equity as well as access to new regional high-capacity transit.

The Mobility Framework has been developed to build a system that is resilient and responsive to changing needs, demographics, as well as new investments in infrastructure. The pandemic has highlighted which communities heavily rely on transit; it is more clear than ever where the needs are greatest. These areas, which comprise the foundation of Metro's customer base, are where we should prioritize building back service during recovery.

Finally, transit planning works best when approached as a system, which includes Metro transit and partner agency services. The current proposal ignores this systems thinking, and instead sets precedent for an approach that undermines adopted policy and threatens the County's leadership on transit equity.

Please continue to use King County values to guide policymaking, and hold the Mobility Framework as the guidepost for investing in transit and our communities.

Sincerely,

Metro Mobility Equity Cabinet

Sarneshea Evans, Community Member (co-chair)

Tony To, Homesight (co-chair)

Niesha Fort-Brooks, Community Leader

Suzy Munoz, Para los Ninos

Lin Robinson, King County Metro Transit Advisory Commission

Sili Savusa, White Center Community Development Association

Anna Zivarts, Disability Rights Washington

Ellany Kayce, Nakani Native Program

Monisha Harrell, Equal Rights WA

Tamieko Cook, ATU Secretary
Pah-tu Pitt, Native Kut
Alex Mayo, Community Activist
Kiana Parker, SDOT Transportation Equity Workgroup
Jeff Smith,
Paulina Lopez, Duwamish River Cleanup Coalition
Jessica Par, TCC Peer Educator
Karishama Vahora, TCC Peer Educator

SDOT Transportation Equity Workgroup
Transportation Choices Coalition
Seattle/King County Coalition on Homelessness
OneAmerica
Greater Redmond Transportation Management Association
Disability Rights Washington, Disability Mobility Initiative
Puget Sound Sage
Transit Riders Union
Futurewise
Sierra Club
Equal Rights Washington