



King County

Dow Constantine

King County Executive

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May 14, 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 a Recreational Trail Use Agreement with Puget Sound Energy (PSE) relating to the improvement, maintenance, and operation of the Interurban Trail.

The Interurban Trail is part of King County's 175-mile regional trail system, which connects communities throughout King County. Safe trails offer active transportation opportunities, reducing air pollution, which in turn benefits the overall health of the community. The Interurban Trail also connects residents to transit stations and employment and civic centers and provides recreation and respite. The original trail easement was granted by PSE to King County in 1977 and the trail was constructed in the 1970s and 1980s by King County. Approval of this proposed legislation would allow the Parks and Recreation Division (Division) of the Department of Natural Resources and Parks (DNRP) to make improvements to the Interurban Trail where it connects the cities of Tukwila, Kent, Auburn, Algona, and Pacific.

Trails, along with green spaces, river walkways, and parks, facilitate active recreation, which can reduce health factors linked to obesity, diabetes, chronic illness, and reduced life expectancy. The Interurban Trail also helps support economic and civic growth as improvements help connect local businesses to non-motorized transportation options for their guests and employees and creates a focal point for community gathering. DNRP has worked with PSE and local cities on this agreement to ensure that this trail can be improved and maintained for the benefit of King County residents. This section of the Interurban Trail was included in the 2020-2025 Parks Levy, as part of expanded regional investments in the public trails system and has been partially funded in the 2021-2022 budget.

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This proposed legislation furthers the mobility goal of the King County Strategic Plan by making improvements that will increase the integration between transportation modes and improve safety and security for trail visitors. Execution of the Recreational Trail Use Agreement and subsequent investment in the trail would also further the facility and system improvements goal of the Equity and Social Justice Strategic Plan by providing more access to residents in historically underserved communities through.

Thank you for your consideration of this proposed ordinance. This proposed legislation will help rehabilitate a well-loved community asset and increase opportunities for non-motorized transportation and recreation in five King County cities.

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

Sincerely,



for

Dow Constantine
King County Executive

Enclosures

cc: King County Councilmembers

ATTN: Carolyn Busch, 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