



King County

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February 23, 2022

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, approve transportation service changes for fixed-route transit networks affecting service in the cities of Seattle and Burien and portions of unincorporated King County. Specifically, the proposed legislation would delete King County Metro Transit (Metro) bus Route 120 and replace it with Metro's new RapidRide H Line. This change is expected to bring faster, more reliable transit service to Burien, White Center, Delridge, Downtown Seattle, and South Lake Union.

Approval of this proposed legislation will implement the first RapidRide line developed by Metro's RapidRide Expansion Program created by Ordinance 18409, in partnership with the City of Seattle's Move Seattle transportation levy. Completion of the H Line's capital improvements is anticipated in fall 2022, though the date may be delayed due to labor actions, supply chain issues, or other circumstances beyond the control of King County.

The RapidRide H Line alignment was approved by King County Council via Ordinance 18894. Ordinance 18894 established the H Line's pathway and station locations for final design and construction. The H Line corridor was identified and prioritized in the City of Seattle's Transit Master Plan, and in Metro's long-range plan, Metro Connects. Each of these planning efforts evaluated and prioritized implementation of the H Line based on several factors, including potential ridership, equity measures, and network connectivity. Metro collaborated closely with local jurisdictions and unincorporated area partners, local businesses, community organizations, and the public on alignment and station location decision-making. Metro and the City of Seattle engaged community partners in this work, including community councils, development associations, senior organizations and facilities, youth and service groups, and other key stakeholder organizations.

Investment and delivery of H Line upgrades along the 13.5-mile corridor is a partnership effort between Metro, the City of Seattle, the City of Burien, and King County Department of Local Services Road Services Division. Project roadway and transit improvements are funded by Metro

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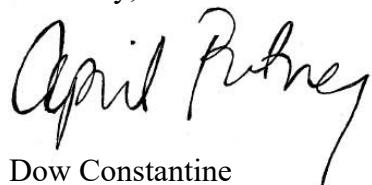
capital budget resources, the Move Seattle transportation levy, state Regional Mobility Grant funds and City of Burien funding. Metro's goal of continually improving the customer experience is exemplified on the H Line with the first deployment of the newly-designed kit of amenities and branding at RapidRide station locations, including upgraded shelter design, improved technology, and enhanced passenger amenities.

Implementation of the RapidRide H Line aligns with the King County Strategic Plan mobility goal of a safe, reliable, and seamless network of transportation options to get people and goods where they need to go, when they need to get there by delivering a regional, innovative, and integrated mobility network that is safe, equitable and sustainable. The proposed legislation implements a bus-rapid transit project that supports the pro-equity and transportation and mobility goals outlined in the King County Strategic Plan. The adopted Strategic Plan for Public Transportation 2021-2031 and associated long-range plan (Metro Connects) and Service Guidelines reflect Metro's commitment to expand the RapidRide network.

In addition, implementing the H Line supports King County's sustainability goals and the Strategic Climate Action Plan by investing in one of our region's most productive transit corridors. Expanding Metro's RapidRide service will improve the ability of people in King County to travel without single-occupant vehicles and therefore contribute to the goal to reduce local and countywide greenhouse gas emissions and pollution.

Thank you for your consideration of this proposed Ordinance. If your staff have any questions, please contact Katie Chalmers, Managing Director of Service Development, King County Metro Transit Department, at (206) 477-5869.

Sincerely,

 for

Dow Constantine
King County Executive

Enclosure

cc: King County Councilmembers
 ATTN: Janine Weihe, Acting Chief of Staff
 Melani Pedroza, Clerk of the Council
Shannon Braddock, Chief of Staff, Office of the Executive
Karan Gill, Deputy Chief of Staff, Office of the Executive
Mina Hashemi, Council Relations Director, Office of the Executive
Terry White, General Manager, Metro Transit Department (MTD)
Christina O'Claire, Director, Mobility Division, MTD