



King County

Dow Constantine

King County Executive
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November 18, 2020

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 the report on Implementation of a Ballard to downtown Seattle Water Taxi Route Proviso Response as called for by Ordinance 18835, Section 109, as amended by Ordinance 18930, Section 75, Proviso P8 and a proposed motion that would, if enacted, acknowledge receipt of the report.

As required, the enclosed report provides an update on the route information included in the 2015 ferry expansion options report along with summaries of planning efforts, environmental impact analysis and coordination with local agencies. It includes funding options, summary of public outreach, and the steps for moving forward to implement a Ballard route.

In developing the report, Metro Transit's Marine Division engaged with local agencies and property owners to review the potential for operating a passenger-only ferry service from Ballard to downtown Seattle and documented the opportunities and challenges associated with this potential route. Public outreach was performed utilizing a community survey.

The report provides an updated summary analysis of factors related to implementing a Ballard passenger ferry route. This summary indicates that a passenger ferry route is feasible if funding is secured. However, given the current economic conditions caused by the COVID-19 pandemic as well as Metro's focus on expanding transit in areas of greatest need in the communities of priority populations, implementing this route is not recommended in the near term.

The work outlined in this report furthers both the King County Strategic Plan's Mobility goal and the Strategic Climate Action Plan's Transportation and Land Use goal of reducing reliance on driving. More work is needed to review how this route would be prioritized in terms of

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advancing equity and environmental sustainability given Metro's plans for changes to policies, programs, services, and investment strategies.

The report was produced by a consultant working with department staff. The consultant task was budgeted at \$200,000, with an additional Metro staff time at an approximate cost of \$12,000 for about 190 hours over 10 months.

Thank you for your consideration of this report. The updates for implementation of a Ballard water taxi route will be retained and used to further inform the long-term mobility plans for Metro. If your staff have any questions, please feel free to contact Paul Brodeur, Marine Division Director, Metro Transit Department, at 206-477-3966.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dow Constantine".

Dow Constantine
King County Executive

Enclosure

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
Terry White, Interim General Manager, Metro Transit Department