



King County

Girmay Zahilay

King County Executive

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www.kingcounty.gov

February 25, 2026

The Honorable Sarah Perry
Chair, King County Council
Room 1200
C O U R T H O U S E

Dear Councilmember Perry

This letter transmits a proposed Ordinance which would amend King County Code and Ordinances 12076 and 10455 for allowable uses of the Real Estate Excise Tax (REET) 2 to temporarily include roads capital projects stemming from an emergency as proclaimed by the Executive.

The December 2025 flood event caused extensive damage to our county roads and bridges system. The full fiscal impact of the damage is still being assessed. The impacted roads and bridges serve critical functions for residents living in unincorporated King County, as well as all County residents. As you know, Roads is facing a funding crisis, and these repairs cannot wait until a sustainable solution is reached.

This proposed Ordinance would expand the allowable uses for REET 2 to include Roads emergency response capital projects until March 31, 2027. The proposed Ordinance does not alter the use of REET 2 for Parks projects. I plan to propose corresponding budget adjustments to allocate REET to Roads in the 1st Omnibus.

Thank you for your consideration of this proposed Ordinance. The amended language will allow the County to rapidly address the transportation and access issues created by the flood event.

If your staff have questions, please contact Aaron Rubardt, Chief Budget Officer, Office of the Executive at 206-263-9715.

The Honorable Sarah Perry

February 25, 2026

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Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'G. Zahilay', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Girmay Zahilay

King County Executive

Enclosure

cc: King County Councilmembers

ATTN: Stephanie Cirkovich, Chief of Staff, King County Council

Melani Hay, Clerk of the Council

Karan Gill, Deputy Executive, Office of the Executive

Jasmin Weaver, Chief of Staff, Office of the Executive

Sierra Howlett-Brown, Policy Director, Office of the Executive

Garrett Holbrook, Council Relations Manager, Office of the Executive

Aaron Rubardt, Chief Budget Officer, Office of the Executive