



City of
Bellevue

Post Office Box 90012 • Bellevue, Washington • 98009 9012

November 15, 2016

King County Council
516 - 3rd Ave, Room 1200
Seattle, WA 98104

Dear King County Councilmembers:

I am writing in support of the appointment of Rob Gannon as General Manager of King County Metro. As the Transportation Director for the City of Bellevue, I know firsthand the importance of a high functioning transit network to an effective regional transportation system.

The Eastside is a growing regional economic engine that spans a diverse mix of growing urban centers, small and medium size cities and rural areas—and requires more than traditional urban-suburban fixed route service to efficiently meet our travel demands. Thanks to the King County Metro Connects Long Range Plan, Metro is on the verge of revolutionizing its system into frequent, all day transit service in which a rider can travel between regional growth centers in an hour or less. We share this vision for transit in Bellevue, as outlined in the 2014 Bellevue Transit Master Plan (TMP), and are pleased to see many of the key elements from the TMP reflected in Metro Connects. The long range plan is a critical step in the process that articulates this vision, and Rob Gannon has played an important role in supporting that effort. Now the work of putting the plan into action begins, and he is well poised to lead that charge.

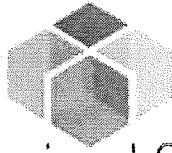
Rob brings the wealth of management experience needed to oversee the region's largest transit agency and an employee base of more than 4,500 workers. His nearly 6-year tenure with King County Metro provides him with a unique understanding of the organizational culture of the agency and the needs of its employees. He strives to meet these needs, while endeavoring to advance Metro's core business. In the nearly 8 months that he has served as Interim General Manager, King County Metro has continued to innovate to deliver new programs in support of improved customer service. One example of such innovation is the 2017 King County Metro Alternative Services Pilot Program, which challenges local jurisdictions and private companies to collaborate with Metro to achieve better service in areas with unique challenges.

Bellevue looks forward to continuing our ongoing partnership with King County Metro to plan and deliver high quality transportation to the Eastside and to the greater region. I am confident that this relationship will continue to thrive with Rob at the helm.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David Berg", with a large, stylized flourish extending to the right.

David Berg, P.E.
Director, Transportation Department



Puget Sound Regional Council

1011 WESTERN AVENUE, SUITE 500 SEATTLE, WA 98104 • 1035 psrc.org • 206-464-7090

November 2, 2016

Metropolitan King County Council
516 Third Avenue, Room 1200
Seattle, WA 98104

Re: Appointment of Rob Gannon to the position of General Manager for Metro Transit

Dear Council Members:

I am writing in support of Rob Gannon's confirmation as General Manager for Metro Transit. Rob is an outstanding choice to head up one of the nation's premier transit agencies.

Every day hundreds of thousands of people depend on Metro to get where they need to go. Data show that overall transit ridership is at an all-time high in our region and continues to accelerate as our economy booms. As the largest provider of transit service in the region with more than 71 million boardings annually, Metro is critically important to the region's mobility and quality of life.

I've gotten to know Rob as a thoughtful, dedicated leader on the regional transit executive committee, which meets regularly to share best practices and improve regional transit integration. I've been impressed by Rob's connection with all levels of Metro employees, who show confidence in his commitment to a safe and professional work environment.

At PSRC, we coordinate closely with Metro on long-range planning and funding for transit. Rob is a collaborative leader who played a key role in creating Metro's long range plan, Metro Connects, and supports ongoing regional transit coordination. A highlight in the last year has been his oversight of successful route restructuring and integration work related to the opening of new Link light rail service to the UW and Capitol Hill.

Rob is well prepared to guide implementation of Metro's long-range plan to increase service to meet growing demand and continue efforts to improve safety for passengers and employees. PSRC recently awarded more than \$179 million in regionally managed federal funds to King County for bus replacements, maintenance, and other projects through 2020. Rob's exceptional skills in managing the complex operations of a large government organization will be an asset as Metro puts these dollars to work to ensure continued excellent service for the region's transit riders.

Rob will excel as General Manager and is an exceptional choice to lead Metro forward. He's a leader the region can count on.

Sincerely,

Josh Brown, Executive Director
Puget Sound Regional Council



Seattle
Department of
Transportation

November 14, 2016

Metropolitan King County Council
516 3rd Ave, Room 1200
Seattle, WA 98104

Dear King County Councilmembers:

I am writing to convey my strong support of the appointment of Rob Gannon as General Manager of King County Metro.

Metro is a key partner for the City of Seattle and the Seattle Department of Transportation (SDOT). From our daily cooperation in delivering additional levels of transit service for Seattle residents under the Seattle Transportation Benefit District to coordination of service along major project corridors like Roosevelt Way and Rainier Avenue, a strong relationship with Metro is critical.

As the city continues to experience record levels of growth, Metro and SDOT will depend on one another to move residents, visitors, and commuters to, through, and around our city using public transportation and in a constrained and built-out geography. As a partner of ours in developing One Center City, he has shown his commitment to think innovatively and work across modes and agencies to deliver solutions.

Implementation of our seven RapidRide corridors as promised in the 2015 Levy to Move Seattle is an important component of achieving the mobility and livability Seattle residents want and demand. We will need Metro's help in realizing that vision and in making RapidRide a success across both the city as well as throughout the county.

Rob has demonstrated himself to be a pragmatic problem-solver and a leader as interim general manager, and I know he'll be able to build upon that reputation once appointed to the position of General Manager.

I look forward to working with Rob in his new permanent role, and I encourage you to take swift action in confirming his selection by the county executive.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Scott Kubly".

Scott Kubly, Director
Seattle Department of Transportation



King County Council
516 3rd Ave, Room 1200
Seattle, WA 98104

Dear King County Council Members,

I am writing in strong support of the appointment of Rob Gannon as General Manager of King County Metro. As the Executive Director of Transportation Choices Coalition, I have had the pleasure to witness the strong leadership he has demonstrated as the interim leader at Metro.

King County Metro continues to be at the leading edge of innovation under Rob's leadership. The development and implementation of the nation's most expansive low-income transit fare program, ORCA LIFT, in which Rob played an important role, speaks to this innovation. He has also recently been instrumental in supporting the development of Metro's first long range plan, METRO Connects, which provides a map for how expanded rail and buses can work together to provide the mobility network that our rapidly growing region needs.

One of the best attributes for Rob Gannon is not something most people will see. He has impressed me as being concerned with building a strong workforce and the support services people need to innovate and succeed at Metro. It is critical that Metro adapts to the growth we are seeing regionally by continuing to build a solid foundation for the future. Rob's leadership in focusing on attracting talent to Metro, improving work conditions, providing training and pathways for advancement, and investing in infrastructure needs is exactly what Metro needs to have long term success.

I believe Rob Gannon is the right choice to lead King County Metro at this important time for our region. I look forward to working with him in the future. Please don't hesitate to contact me if I can be of further help to you as you make your decision. I can be reached at shefali@transportationchoices.org or 206-329-2336.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Shefali R". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Shefali Ranganathan
Executive Director
Transportation Choices Coalition



November 9, 2016

The Honorable Joe McDermott
King County Council
516 Third Avenue, Room 1200
Seattle, WA 98104

Dear Chair McDermott: *Joe:*

I am writing to express my strong support for the confirmation of Rob Gannon as General Manager of King County Metro Transit.

I have worked with Rob since January of this year, when I started as Chief Executive Officer at Sound Transit. Since that time, I have been impressed by the breadth of Rob's experience and knowledge, as well as his understanding of the key role that an integrated, safe, and efficient transit system plays in the future of King County.

Rob has a strong reputation as a people-oriented leader and an astute and practical problem-solver. He oversaw the development of King County Metro's long range transit plan and has cultivated a heightened organizational focus on increasing safety, maintaining a strong workforce, and providing world-class customer service to Metro riders. He is a trusted and proven regional transit leader with good judgement and strategic sense, as he has demonstrated most recently over the last nine months as Interim General Manager for King County Metro.

As a partner to Sound Transit, Rob has shown the ability to communicate and collaborate effectively toward common goals. One key example of his collaborative and solutions-focused approach would be his role in Sound Transit's negotiations with King County Metro over property and transit operations for the planned Northgate Light Rail Station and Transit Center, slated to open in 2021. Rob was able to move beyond what might otherwise have been impasses, and helped us reach equitable resolutions to several persistent and complex issues.

Rob is a knowledgeable, dedicated transit leader, and it is without hesitation that I recommend his confirmation to the position of General Manager of King County Metro Transit. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at (206) 398-5450.

Sincerely,

Peter M. Rogoff
Chief Executive Officer

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