



## King County

### **Dow Constantine**

King County Executive

401 Fifth Avenue, Suite 800

Seattle, WA 98104-1818

**206-263-9600** Fax 206-296-0194

TTY Relay: 711

[www.kingcounty.gov](http://www.kingcounty.gov)

August 26, 2024

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

Dear Councilmember Upthegrove:

This letter transmits a proposed Ordinance that would, if enacted, endorse Complete Streets road facilities and define the conditions that may preclude the construction of such facilities. Approval of this proposed legislation will support the development of road facilities that serve all users, improve grant competitiveness, and set clear expectations for private developers, county departments, and external agencies.

Complete Streets are roads that prioritize safety, comfort, and connectivity to destinations for all people who use the road network, particularly those from underserved communities facing historic disinvestment. The development of Complete Streets can improve pedestrian safety, increase the capacity of the transportation network, promote improvements in public health, and reduce greenhouse gas emissions from transportation.

Planning for Complete Streets is supported by the federal and state governments. The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) encourages local transportation agencies to adopt and implement Complete Streets policies and has established a goal of increasing the proportion of federal aid funded transportation projects that develop Complete Streets. In 2011, the state legislature enacted the Complete Streets Act (RCW 47.04.320-.340), which encourages local governments to adopt Complete Streets ordinances, and established a grant program to help cities, towns, and counties with Complete Street ordinances pay for Complete Streets projects.

The proposed Ordinance is aligned with long-standing County Comprehensive Plan policy to consider the needs and abilities of non-motorized users of the transportation system and is responsive to community input received through numerous public engagement efforts with unincorporated King County residents. Complete Streets infrastructure is implemented through design requirements included in the King County Road Design and Construction Standards.

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Thank you for your consideration of this proposed Ordinance. If your staff have any questions, please contact Tricia Davis, Director, Road Services Division at (206) 263-9690.

Sincerely,



for

Dow Constantine

King County Executive

Enclosure

cc: King County Councilmembers

ATTN: Stephanie Cirkovich, Chief of Staff

Melani Hay, Clerk of the Council

Karan Gill, Chief of Staff, Office of the Executive

Penny Lipsou, Council Relations Director, Office of the Executive

Leon Richardson, Director, Department of Local Services

Tricia Davis, Director, Department of Local Services Road Services Division

JoAnn Kosai-Eng, County Road Engineer, Department of Local Services Road Services Division