



**Signature Report**

**Motion 15618**

**Proposed No.** 2019-0464.2

**Sponsors** Balducci

1           A MOTION relating to public transportation, adopting the  
2           Metro Mobility Framework Recommendations Summary  
3           and outlining a process for the development of updates to  
4           the Metro transit department's adopted policies.

5           WHEREAS, recent developments in transportation technologies have led to  
6           innovations in mobility that have changed the way people travel, and

7           WHEREAS, these innovative mobility services offer many new transportation  
8           options but do not always put people first or use public space equitably and efficiently,  
9           and

10          WHEREAS, these innovative mobility services are not yet well-integrated with  
11          public transit, meaning that it can be difficult for passengers to plan and pay for their  
12          mobility needs, and

13          WHEREAS, implementing mobility services in King County has been  
14          complicated by the recent increase in housing prices, which has resulted in many  
15          households living farther away from jobs, school and other destinations, in less-dense  
16          areas that can be more difficult to serve with fixed-route public transit and that are often  
17          not well served by innovative mobility services, and

18          WHEREAS, transportation is one of the largest sources of greenhouse gas  
19          emissions in King County, making it essential that King County develop strategies to

20 reduce vehicle miles traveled by fossil-fuel burning, single-occupancy vehicles, and

21 WHEREAS, those challenges require a vision for a regional mobility system that  
22 is innovative, integrated, equitable and sustainable, and

23 WHEREAS, Motion 15253 required the Metro transit department to develop a  
24 regional mobility framework for the equitable implementation of innovations in transit  
25 service and mobility that should include: guiding principles; a review of emerging  
26 technologies and local and national best practices; analysis of potential implications for  
27 the Metro transit department and opportunities to integrate mobility innovations with  
28 fixed-route and other services; coordination with regional transit planning efforts; a  
29 review of potential policies for the allocation of public space; a review of industry-wide  
30 workforce trends; information on how transit policies should be updated; and engagement  
31 with regional partners, transit riders and local communities, including but not limited to  
32 low-income populations, communities of color, immigrants and refugees and limited-  
33 English-speaking populations, and

34 WHEREAS, as required by Motion 15253, the Metro transit department  
35 transmitted a scoping document on April 18, 2019, which included a timeline, expected  
36 work tasks and a budget to develop the mobility framework, and

37 WHEREAS, Motion 15252 required the executive, working in coordination with  
38 the council, to initiate a regional planning effort during 2019 to address the  
39 implementation of METRO CONNECTS, the Metro transit department's long-range  
40 transit service and capital plan, as well as the ongoing maintenance needs of King  
41 County's transportation infrastructure, and that, as part of this effort, the Metro transit  
42 department should prepare updated information to supplement METRO CONNECTS to

43 adjust for increased population growth, increasing regional congestion, inflation and  
44 construction costs, regional mobility needs and innovations in transportation, and

45 WHEREAS, as required by Motion 15252, the Metro transit department  
46 transmitted a status report on May 31, 2019, which described the coordination of the  
47 development of the mobility framework with regional transit planning and funding efforts  
48 and the progress in preparing updated information to supplement METRO CONNECTS,  
49 and

50 WHEREAS, to implement the efforts required by Motions 15252 and 15253, the  
51 Metro transit department convened the King County Metro equity cabinet, which was  
52 comprised of twenty-three community leaders representing communities countywide  
53 including, but not limited to, low-income people, communities of color, immigrants and  
54 refugees, limited-English speaking communities and people with disabilities, to cocreate  
55 the mobility framework, and

56 WHEREAS, the Metro transit department conducted extensive outreach and  
57 engagement around the development of the mobility framework with regional partners,  
58 elected leaders, stakeholder organizations, transit riders, local communities, low-income  
59 populations, communities of color, immigrants and refugees, limited-English-speaking  
60 populations, people with disabilities and others, and

61 WHEREAS, the process of developing the mobility framework began with the  
62 development of guiding principles, as required by Motion 15253, which were drafted by  
63 the King County Metro equity cabinet and then reviewed and refined by the regional  
64 transit committee, local elected officials, stakeholder organizations and community  
65 members, and

66 WHEREAS, the Metro transit department conducted analysis on emerging  
67 technologies and local and national best practices, as required by Motion 15253, and that  
68 information was used to develop the mobility framework, and

69 WHEREAS, the Metro transit department conducted analysis of potential  
70 implications for public transit services, opportunities to integrate mobility innovations  
71 with fixed-route and other services, potential policies for the allocation of public space  
72 and industry-wide workforce trends, as required by Motion 15253, and that information  
73 was used to develop the mobility framework, and

74 WHEREAS, the Metro transit department has begun a process to prepare  
75 revisions and updates to countywide public transit policies, including the Strategic Plan  
76 for Public Transportation, the King County Metro Service Guidelines and the METRO  
77 CONNECTS - King County Metro Long-Range Plan, as required by Motion 15253, and  
78 has described this process and a proposed timeframe for these updates within the mobility  
79 framework, and

80 WHEREAS, the Metro transit department has begun a process to prepare updated  
81 information to supplement METRO CONNECTS to adjust for increased population  
82 growth, increasing regional congestion, inflation and construction costs, regional mobility  
83 needs and innovations in transportation, as required by Motion 15252, and has described  
84 this process and a proposed timeline for this updated information within the mobility  
85 framework, and

86 WHEREAS, the mobility framework proposes recommendations in the areas of  
87 investments, surrounding land use, innovation, workforce and engagement that, if  
88 implemented, will help lead to a regional mobility system that is more innovative,

89 integrated, equitable and sustainable;

90 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT MOVED by the Council of King County:

91 A. The Metro Mobility Framework Recommendations Summary, which is  
92 Attachment A to this motion, is hereby adopted.

93 B. The Metro transit department, under the leadership of the executive and  
94 working in coordination with the council, shall engage in a planning process to update its  
95 adopted policies and associated reporting requirements during 2020, including, but not  
96 limited to, the Strategic Plan for Public Transportation, the King County Metro Service  
97 Guidelines, the King County Ferry District 2014-2018 strategic plan and the METRO  
98 CONNECTS - King County Metro Long-Range Plan, to incorporate recommendations  
99 from the mobility framework, as well as policies needed to implement METRO  
100 CONNECTS. The process shall include:

101 1. Regular reports to the regional transit committee and the mobility and  
102 environment committee, or its successor;

103 2. Outreach and engagement with regional partners, communities historically  
104 lacking in access to or underserved by transit, the Sound Cities Association, the city of  
105 Seattle, King County's regional transportation boards, transit riders and local  
106 communities, including, but not limited to, low-income populations, communities of  
107 color, immigrants and refugees, people with disabilities and limited English speaking  
108 populations;

109 3. Ongoing consultation with the King County Metro equity cabinet to ensure  
110 their engagement as the recommendations of the mobility framework are incorporated  
111 into the updates to the Metro transit department's adopted policies;

- 112           4. Updated information to supplement METRO CONNECTS to adjust for  
113 increased population growth, increasing regional congestion, inflation and construction  
114 costs, regional mobility needs and innovations in transportation;
- 115           5. Analysis of funding options to implement METRO CONNECTS;
- 116           6. Identification of the components of the METRO CONNECTS 2040 network  
117 that can be implemented using existing funding;
- 118           7. Development of a proposal to engage with cities regarding their transit needs  
119 on an ongoing basis using existing groups, venues and briefings;
- 120           8. Analysis of opportunities to assist local jurisdictions in implementing capital  
121 investments to improve speed and reliability for transit and to increase access to transit;  
122 and
- 123           9. Analysis of opportunities to test, implement, partner with and respond to

124 innovative mobility services and the development of policies related to the role of

125 innovative mobility services within the public transit network.

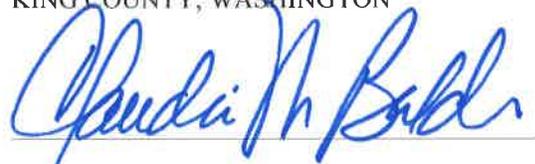
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Motion 15618 was introduced on 11/13/2019 and passed by the Metropolitan King County Council on 3/10/2020, by the following vote:

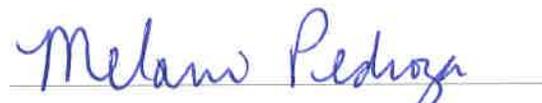
Yes: 9 - Mr. von Reichbauer, Ms. Lambert, Mr. Dunn, Mr. McDermott, Mr. Dembowski, Mr. Upthegrove, Ms. Kohl-Welles, Ms. Balducci and Mr. Zahilay



KING COUNTY COUNCIL  
KING COUNTY, WASHINGTON

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Claudia Balducci, Chair

ATTEST:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Melani Pedroza, Clerk of the Council

**Attachments:** A. Metro Mobility Framework Recommendations Summary dated December 5, 2019

**King County Metro** Mobility Framework  
**Recommendations Summary**

October 2019

# King County Metro Mobility Framework Recommendations Summary

## Introduction



King County Metro’s Mobility Framework envisions a regional network of traditional and new transportation services that gets people where they want to go, when they want to get there, while contributing to healthy communities, a thriving economy, and a sustainable environment.

The Mobility Framework was community-led and co-created with the **King County Metro Mobility Equity Cabinet**, a group of 23 community leaders representing riders countywide, including but not limited to low-income people, black, indigenous, and people of color, immigrants and refugees, limited-English speaking communities, and people with disabilities.

The Mobility Framework responds to Motion 15253, which asked Metro to develop a regional mobility framework to ensure that innovations in mobility put people first, use public space equitably and efficiently, and are coordinated with transit policies and regional funding strategies. It also responds to Motion 15252, which asked Metro to provide updated information to supplement METRO CONNECTS, Metro’s adopted long-range plan, and to work with regional leaders and community members to develop a plan to implement METRO CONNECTS.

The Framework also responds to several other significant changes in our region that have implications for Metro’s service to the people of King County:

- **The county’s growing and diversifying population**, and the persistent inequities that exist despite our region’s economic success, which requires a renewed focus on the unmet mobility needs of black, indigenous, and people of color, low-income people, immigrants and refugees, limited-English speaking communities, and people with disabilities;
- **Increasing housing prices and the associated transportation challenges that result from displacement**, when households must move farther from work, school, and other destinations, to places that are often less dense and therefore less well-served by transit;
- **The worsening climate crisis** and the need to significantly reduce greenhouse gas emissions from car travel, promote climate resiliency, and improve health outcomes; and

- **The need to integrate traditional, fixed-route transit with rapidly evolving new mobility services** to help people move quickly and seamlessly throughout the region.

In responding to these challenges, the Mobility Framework articulates a vision for a regional mobility system that builds on Metro's existing network of transit services to become more **innovative, integrated, equitable, and sustainable**. The Mobility Framework includes 10 Guiding Principles and Recommendations in five thematic areas.

The Equity Cabinet spent much of 2019 working with Metro staff to review adopted policies, and to study King County's changing demographics, travel trends and needs, best practices, and emerging mobility technologies. The Framework was also informed by extensive outreach and engagement with local elected officials, stakeholder organizations, and community members.

## Guiding Principles

The Guiding Principles offer overarching guidance for how Metro and partners can work together to achieve a regional mobility system that is innovative, integrated, equitable, and sustainable. They were developed in partnership with the Equity Cabinet and with input from elected officials, regional partners, and community stakeholders. These Guiding Principles will guide updates to Metro's Strategic Plan for Public Transportation, which will be updated during 2020.

- Invest where needs are greatest
- Address the climate crisis and environmental justice
- Innovate equitably and sustainably
- Ensure safety
- Encourage dense, affordable housing in urban areas near transit
- Improve access to mobility
- Provide fast, reliable, integrated mobility services
- Support our workforce
- Align our investments with equity, sustainability, and financial responsibility
- Engage deliberately and transparently

Following the development of the Guiding Principles, the Equity Cabinet developed Recommendations in five thematic areas that consolidated the Guiding Principles: **investments, surrounding land use, innovation, workforce, and engagement**. Input from elected officials, community stakeholders, regional partners, and the general principles informed these recommendations.

## Recommendations

The Recommendations below are meant to **build on and strengthen** Metro's existing network of transit services.

They address Metro's role as a provider of fixed-route public transit and community-based mobility services; as an employer and contractor; as a partner to jurisdictions around the region; as a co-provider of services with private mobility companies; and as part of a local government that prioritizes equity and sustainability. They provide guidance for ways Metro can **add to and to build on** its existing, regional network of mobility services with the goal of achieving a mobility network that is innovative, integrated, equitable, and sustainable.

The recommendations span from visionary to long overdue and are essential to the future of the regional mobility system. Metro looks forward to working with local municipalities, organized labor, partner transit agencies, community-based organizations, and/or private mobility providers to fund and implement these recommendations.



### Investments

- **Provide additional transit service in areas with unmet need**, defined as areas with high density; a high proportion of low-income people, people of color, people with disabilities, and members of limited-English speaking communities; and limited mid-day and evening service. Adapt Metro's adopted policies to meet this need and to ensure regular and ongoing evaluation of the needs of these areas. **\$**
- **Support investments to increase safety**, including bus safety features, a safety app or other technology, and amenities such as lighting, real-time arrival signs, and informational campaigns. **\$**
- **Support improvements to increase speed and reliability** to make transit investments most successful and to provide incentives for local jurisdictions to prioritize use of the right-of-way for transit and access to transit. **★\$**

#### Key

**★** Indicates that Metro must partner to implement this recommendation.

**\$** Indicates need for additional funding.



### Surrounding Land Use

- **Increase dense, mixed use zoning and affordable housing in urban areas near transit, while working to minimize displacement of priority populations** through the Growth Management Planning Council, by developing a King County Transit-oriented Development policy, and by updating Metro's adopted policies to provide incentives for jurisdictions that provide increased density and/or affordable housing. **★\$**

- **Develop station area and right-of-way guidelines** that prioritize transit use and access for people who walk, bike, or roll to the station. ★\$
- **Develop people-friendly street design near transit**, including traffic-calming measures and ways to make bus stops safe for all ages, genders, and abilities. ★\$
- **Meet King County’s climate goals by reducing car use, developing green infrastructure, promoting climate justice** and prioritizing ways to make transit convenient and accessible. \$



## Innovation

- **Change Metro’s adopted policies to assert the role of innovation, address new mobility services, and support innovative, equitable, sustainable mobility** to ensure they supplement transit services and work first for priority populations.
- **Develop new mobility guidelines for how Metro partners with private providers** that incentivize an equity and climate focus.
- **Facilitate integrated payment and planning** to help customers plan and pay for multimodal trips, in partnership with ORCA agencies and private providers. ★\$
- **Enhance communications and engagement** to raise awareness of mobility innovations.
- **Convene and support jurisdictions** in developing a regional framework for innovative mobility partnerships. ★



## Workforce

- **Strategically partner with the labor community** to build new “communities of ridership” and benefit Metro employees, priority populations and the environment. ★\$
- **Use future transportation innovations to target new riders as potential employees.**
- **Use strategic and culturally specific communication methods** to build sustainable community relationships.
- **Build infrastructure to provide pathways to mobility-related employment**, including a “school without a school,” an equity in mobility summer internship program, an approach to assist with costs associated with workforce development and employment pathways, and community-based mobility career hubs. ★\$
- **Use strategic workforce planning** to meet current and future workforce needs. ★\$
- **Purposefully foster a sustainable learning culture within Metro.**
- **Require the centering of equity in all contracts and subcontracts.**



## Engagement

- **Strengthen communication and marketing efforts** to ensure that priority populations are aware of existing mobility services, innovative new pilots, service changes, affordability programs, and other efforts.
- **Build lasting relationships in communities** and compensate community members for their time and expertise.
- **Use a coordinated cross-departmental approach to engagement**, including a continuing King County Equity Cabinet.
- **Develop an equity-centered engagement framework** by co-creating with the community and measuring equity and sustainability over time.
- **Develop a community liaison program** to hire people to act as a conduit to the community.
- **Identify metrics to measure success and continually improve**, and regularly report on engagement metrics.

## Next Steps

The Mobility Framework, designed by an Equity Cabinet of community leaders, will guide updates to Metro's adopted policies, including Metro's Strategic Plan, long-range plan (METRO CONNECTS), and Service Guidelines, as well as the Transportation Goal Area of the Strategic Climate Action Plan. The Mobility Framework's recommendations will also guide the development of Metro's 2021-2022 biennial budget proposal and ongoing regional planning efforts to fund and implement METRO CONNECTS.

As required by Motion 15252, the update to METRO CONNECTS will include updated information to adjust for population and employment growth, increasing regional congestion, inflation and construction costs, regional mobility needs and innovations in transportation.

Work to update Metro's policy documents (specifically, the Strategic Plan for Public Transportation, Service Guidelines, and METRO CONNECTS) will begin during the first half of 2020 to align with the recommendations of the Mobility Framework and to provide detailed implementation guidance for how the Mobility Framework's recommendations can be realized. Updates to these policy documents will benefit from input from Equity Cabinet members, elected leaders, stakeholder organizations, and communities.

Metro looks forward to working closely with elected leaders, stakeholder groups, and community members to fund and implement these recommendations and move forward together toward a regional mobility system that is innovative, integrated, equitable, and sustainable.