



King County

Shannon Braddock
King County Executive

401 Fifth Avenue, Suite 800
Seattle, WA 98104

206-296-9600 Fax 206-296-0194

TTY Relay: 711

www.kingcounty.gov

August 28, 2025

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

Dear Councilmember Zahilay:

This letter transmits a Vanpool Program Update Report addressing current and planned changes to the program to address changing ridership patterns in response to King County Ordinance 19861, Section 115, Transit, Proviso P4.

As required, the enclosed report includes the number of active vanpool groups in 2024 and their operational impact in achieving King County Strategic Climate Action Plan goals as well as projected groups that will be active through 2027; the number of vehicles owned, available for service, available as loaners for vanpool groups, and retired or surplus vehicles. The report also includes vehicle purchase plans through 2027 with cost comparisons and number of models available for gas, gas-electric hybrid, and battery-electric vehicles. This report encompasses considerations of vehicle type for fares, accessibility, at-home charging needs, and potential implications of increasing battery-electric vehicles for the van grant program established in K.C.C. 4.56.100.E. Additionally, the report provides a description of the actions the Metro Transit Department (Metro) indicated it was going to take in its written responses to the June 2024 report by the King County auditor entitled Vanpool: Improved Monitoring Could Help Achieve Strategic Goals and Reduce Program Risk.

As described in this report, the Vanpool program has begun to recover from the COVID-19 pandemic but still faces headwinds from fluctuating demand and uncertainty with regard to battery-electric vehicle and charging infrastructure availability. Metro is adapting to meet changing employer and customer expectations, and providing offerings to attract shift, hospitality, custodial, and other entry-level workers, along with small businesses that may benefit from vanpool program features. Metro has completed and made progress on planned efforts in response to the King County auditor program recommendations. Finally, Metro is

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embarking on a plan to innovate and integrate their flexible services, including the Vanpool program, into a more unified, efficient, and easy-to-use system.

Thank you for your consideration of this report. The service Metro's Vanpool program provides is vital to ensuring that King County residents have a safe, clean, and reliable network of transportation options to get them where they need to go, when they need to get there.

If your staff have questions, please contact Jason Halvorson, Superintendent of Mobility Services within the Contracted Services Section, Metro Transit Department, at 206-477-3942.

Sincerely,



for

Shannon Braddock
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, Chief of Staff, Office of the Executive
Stephanie Pure, Council Relations Director, Office of the Executive
Michelle Allison, General Manager, Metro Transit Department
Christina O'Claire, Division Director, Mobility Division, Metro Transit Department