



**Metropolitan King County Council
Budget Panel Discussion 2019-2020**

MOVE KING COUNTY

Panel Meeting #3 | November 1, 2018

ACHIEVING THE METRO CONNECTS VISION

In early 2017, the Council adopted METRO CONNECTS,¹ a long-range plan for Metro Transit that outlines a vision for a 70 percent increase in bus service hours by 2040, accompanied by significant capital investments in fleet, operating base capacity, passenger access and facilities, transit pathways, and other needs.

The METRO CONNECTS vision is not fully funded. Achieving the plan's vision for an interim network by 2025 and the full network by 2040 will require regional collaboration and partnerships. The maintenance needs for roads and bridges in unincorporated King County are also not fully funded.

The panel will discuss mechanisms to convene a regional planning process to outline next steps for the county's transit and transportation future.

INCOME-BASED FARES

Metro Transit currently operates a number of programs that serve people in need, including several reduced-fare programs to make transit more accessible to people who cannot afford to pay full fare. Over the last several years, the Council has asked Metro to undertake additional work to make transit more affordable and accessible.

As part of the proposed 2019-2020 budget, Metro Transit has proposed to pilot one or more income-based fare programs² as a means of evaluating an income-based approach. The proposal would allow Metro to forego up to \$600,000 in fare revenue during each year of the biennium to implement the pilot program(s).

After determining that Councilmembers would prefer to move directly to a new fare program rather than via a pilot, the panel will discuss mechanisms to initiate a new program and the budget actions that would be needed to authorize this new program.

¹ Ordinance 18449

² Proposed Ordinance 2018-0478

ACCESS PARATRANSIT

Access Paratransit program is a supplementary transit service for people with disabilities who are unable to use regular transit services for some or all of their travel needs. Metro has implemented a number of service improvements over the last year in response to concerns about service levels and is in the process of procuring a new contractor to operate Access.

The panel will discuss mechanisms to provide the Council with regular opportunities to review and evaluate Access performance, as well as to establish an Access paratransit advisory committee or other opportunity to provide an ongoing advisory role for Access riders, their family members, advocates and providers.

MOBILITY INNOVATIONS AND EQUITY

The proposed 2019-2020 budget includes an ambitious capital program for Metro Transit, focused around expansion of bus base capacity in a number of areas around the county. In addition, planned service improvements and technological innovations (such as the electrification of the fleet and new last-mile mobility services) will affect people in communities throughout the county.

The panel will discuss mechanisms to provide mobility innovations that build on local and national best practices, allocate the use of public space equitably, and engage with affected communities.

PARKING MANAGEMENT

As part of the proposed 2019-2020 budget, Metro Transit has proposed to charge fees for parking at some spaces for some park and ride lots as a way of managing parking supply. The proposal includes a low-income rate for ORCA LIFT cardholders.

The panel will discuss mechanisms to provide information on the program to the Council and to ensure equitable outcomes in establishing parking fees.