



Michelle Allison, General Manager
King County Metro Transit
201 South Jackson Street
Seattle, WA 98104

RE: Support for proposed Lynnwood Link Connections Mobility Project

Dear Ms. Allison,

This letter is to express support from the Seattle Department of Transportation (SDOT) for the proposed Lynnwood Link Connections Mobility Project service changes (“Lynnwood Link”) in King County. SDOT participated in the project Partner Review Board, King County Metro’s service planning and capital development process, and in outreach to the community. We are proud to support Metro’s efforts in this new proposed service network.

Revised Service Network

SDOT is appreciative of the work that King County Metro put into revising the recently-implemented North Link Connections network from 2021 and into further transforming the bus network to optimize the fast travel times, capacity, and reliability brought by the extension of Link light rail from Northgate to Lynnwood. This builds upon past efforts that included SDOT, Community Transit, and Sound Transit to create a holistic network that improves travel for not only Seattle residents but riders throughout King County and the region.

The proposed network provides new connections to the future Link Stations at NE 130th St and NE 148th St/Shoreline South, including additional east-west connections across North Seattle requested by the public, as seen in Metro proposed routes 61, 72, and 77. This network also expands the reach and hours of frequent bus service – as defined as buses arriving at least every fifteen minutes or better – to more hours of the day and on weekends. The new network also improves connections to other major employment centers within Seattle outside of Downtown, such as Northgate, South Lake Union, First Hill, and the University of Washington/U District.

With the voter-approved funding from the Seattle Transit Measure, which continues until 2026, SDOT will continue to be a partner in providing resources to support increased frequency on Metro's revised bus network.

Equity and Inclusive Outreach

SDOT is committed to delivering a transportation system that provides safe and affordable access to places and opportunities by partnering with communities to build a racially equitable and socially just transportation system. Through this lens, SDOT is excited to have partnered with King County Metro as they applied the equitable goals set out in King County's Mobility Framework, Strategic Plan, and Service Guidelines during their service planning efforts. The Metro team thoughtfully and intentionally built this network with the needs of underserved communities in mind. The Lynnwood Link Mobility Board was also well-structured to seek authentic engagement from actual riders in the project area, and this partnership helped equitably co-create a bus network that improves travel for all passengers with the expansion of light rail service in Northwest King County. In particular, Metro Community Relations staff

continue to set new standards for engaging, multi-lingual, and interactive outreach. Further, their survey methods directly sought to lift the voices of priority communities, engaged local Community-Based Organizations to support Metro's outreach and build community capacity, and paid Mobility Board members for their expertise and their connections to their communities.

Capital Delivery to Support Transit Operations

As asset owner and operator of the roadways within the City of Seattle, SDOT recognizes that the success of a new transit network relies on ensuring bus service is safe and reliable for riders. SDOT is already working closely with Metro and Sound Transit to design and deliver capital improvements to support the successful start of a revised bus network in Fall 2024 and through its final phase in 2026.

These improvements include signal upgrades, changes to roadway channelization, sidewalk and bus stop enhancements, pavement improvements where buses operate, establishment and maintenance of layover zones, and better bicycle facilities at new Link stations and existing bus stops. This work includes short-term corridor enhancements as well as longer-term planning studies for both N 130th St and NE 125th St, which will support Metro's new Route 77 and also improve walking and rolling connections to the NE 130th St Link station. Another partner project with Metro will enhance 30th Ave NE between NE 125th St and Lake City Way NE to support transit operations, while improving pedestrian safety and local access needs.

SDOT support for the Metro proposed network in the Lynnwood Link project area assumes that the agencies will work together to develop future agreements that define design and delivery roles for those projects that enable this revised bus network.

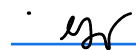
Ongoing Partnership

Our partnership with Metro is an opportunity to further SDOT's mission to enhance safe, climate-friendly and equitable transportation options for the traveling public. As Link light rail continues to expand and provide ongoing opportunities for Metro to reimagine and restore its bus network, SDOT hopes to build on our relationship to support a robust regional transit system that serves the many residents that live, work, and visit Seattle and the Puget Sound region.

We encourage the King County Council to adopt the proposed Lynnwood Link Connections Mobility Project service changes with implementation starting in Fall 2024, as it represents progress towards delivering frequent, reliable service, and all-day transit options for residents of the region. We look forward to continuing the work with King County Metro as the project moves forward to implementation.

If you have further questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Respectfully,



[Greg Spotts \(Dec 5, 2023 11:16 PST\)](#)

Greg Spotts
Director, Seattle Department of Transportation

CC: Dow Constantine, King County Executive

Council Chair Dave Upthegrove
Candida Lorenzana, Seattle Department of Transportation