



King County

Dow Constantine

King County Executive

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November 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 the Traffic Safety on 140th Avenue SE and SE Petrovitsky Road Report, in response to King County Council Motion 16649.

As required, the enclosed report evaluates available strategies to improve traffic safety along the County-maintained portion of 140th Avenue SE and SE Petrovitsky Road. It considers the feasibility of using traffic enforcement cameras, traffic calming capital improvements, and the coordination of emphasis patrols by law enforcement. The report lists and describes segments along the two roads that are known to experience excessive speeding or higher crash risks; prioritizes segments recommended for improvement; and lists and describes traffic safety strategies and projects that will be developed and implemented on the two corridors. It also provides analysis of additional staff and resources needed to implement the strategies and projects identified in the report.

The report identifies more than \$200,000 of roadway improvements that will be implemented. At the time of writing of the report, the improvements are planned for implementation in 2024, depending on weather. The report also identifies approximately \$39 million of additional improvements that could be implemented on the two roads if funding were available. However, the County's ability to construct and maintain the improvements identified in this report is severely limited by the Department of Local Services (DLS) Road Services Division funding crisis. Without new and sustainable funding, the Road Services Division will reach a point within six years where there are no dedicated funds to support a capital program. Over this same period, maintenance and operations programs will be reduced.

The County conducts traffic enforcement through King County Sheriff's Office (KCSO) regular patrol duties rather than through a dedicated traffic enforcement emphasis unit or a

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traffic camera enforcement program. The County's previous traffic enforcement emphasis program was discontinued in 2012 due to financial constraints. The KCSO does not have adequate staff or funding to restart the program. DLS does not operate a traffic camera program, nor has the authority to do so absent amendment of King County Code, and as noted, does not currently have the resources to install or maintain a camera system. The report summarizes the legislative, programmatic, analytic, financial, and collaborative processes that would need to occur with the court system, the Prosecuting Attorney's Office, the Road Services Division, and the KCSO necessary to create an effective and sustainable traffic enforcement camera system.

The DLS and KCSO collaborated on production of this report, and will continue to coordinate with each other, public health organizations, emergency responders, road users, and other parties to influence traffic safety outcomes. DLS will continue to hold safety as its highest priority, seeking systemic traffic safety solutions while directing its limited funds to where they are most needed. The KCSO anticipates that total traffic enforcement will increase as it continues to address its current staffing deficit and will continue to offer traffic enforcement overtime opportunities to its deputies when overtime funding is available through grants or other sources.

Thank you for your consideration of this report.

If your staff have questions, please contact Leon Richardson, Director, Department of Local Services at (206) 263-3332.

Sincerely,



for

Dow Constantine
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, Chief of Staff, Office of the Executive

Penny Lipsou, Council Relations Director, Office of the Executive

Patricia Cole-Tindall, Sherriff, King County Sheriff's Office

Geoffrey Thomas, Chief of Staff, King County Sheriff's Office

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