

Robert D. Johns (*Retired*)
Michael P. Monroe
Darrell S. Mitsunaga
Duana T. Koloušková
Vicki E. Orrico



Honorable Dow Constantine
King County Executive
King County Chinook Building
401 – 5th Ave., Suite 800
Seattle, WA 98104

August 11, 2016

Honorable King County Council
516 Third Avenue, Room 1200
Seattle, WA 98104

Re: 2016 Update to Traffic Concurrency Program

Dear County Executive Constantine and Council Members:

This letter is submitted on behalf of the King County Transportation Concurrency Expert Review Panel, which was appointed pursuant to KCC 14.70.270 for the purpose of reviewing King County's traffic concurrency system and making periodic recommendations to the Executive and Council regarding that system.

The Expert Review Panel has examined the 2016 Transportation Concurrency Update Report relating to the traffic concurrency system, and has met regularly with KCDOT staff. In accordance with its mandate under KCC 14.70.270, the Expert Review Panel has examined the underlying concurrency system and KCDOT's recommendations regarding revisions to the concurrency system, which are being transmitted with the 2016 Report. Based on its review, the Expert Review Panel has the following comments:

INRIX Travel time data: Prior to the current reporting period, there was no available comprehensive data collection source available to the County. As a result, concurrency data collection involved County staff driving each route to obtain data on various arterial routes. This process is further discussed in the 2016 Report. Until now, that was the best available and most cost effective approach for collecting necessary data to evaluate transportation concurrency. However, over the past year, more cost effective options have emerged for obtaining travel speed data. In 2016, the County purchased comprehensive travel time data from INRIX, Inc., an international leader in traffic data systems. Rather than use representative samples, data was obtained for most routes for the entire month of March 2016.

The Expert Review Panel finds that use of INRIX data is a significantly more efficient, accurate and cost effective tool for data collection and strongly supports the County's use thereof. To the extent there are any gaps in INRIX available data, the Panel recommends staff collect travel time data for those arterials as may be necessary for a comprehensive data picture as was done for 2016.

Travel Shed Restructuring: The Panel finds that restructuring of the travel sheds to distinguish between urban and rural, as well as to reflect continuing annexations is appropriate and timely. This approach to travel sheds will be a useful tool moving forward and increases consistency with the County's growth management and transportation programs. Further, the approach is more efficient by reducing the need to re-draw shed boundaries as annexations proceed and allows the sheds to be appropriately tested against the adopted Comprehensive Plan Levels of Service.

In addition, the Panel supports removing regionally-significant, statewide routes from the testing process. State routes must meet regionally adopted level of service standards which are not administered by King County. Instead now, those routes are tested by the state at the established level of service for state routes, but will no longer be part of the County's concurrency testing program.

Concurrency Map Updates: The transportation concurrency map has been updated to reflect restructured travel sheds and new traffic speed studies. The Expert Review Panel finds that the proposed new concurrency map has been accurately revised to reflect the foregoing considerations. In our last report to you, the Panel recommended the County plan for and adopt a revised map reflecting additional annexations. The new travel shed restructuring accomplishes that objective.

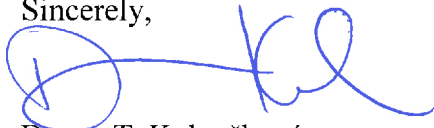
Based on these findings, the Expert Review Panel recommends adoption of the proposed concurrency map.

Dissolution of Expert Review Panel: After thoughtful discussion, considering the shift to concurrency planning toward incorporated areas and in light of the significant efficiencies accomplished in the new data collection and travel shed methodology, the Expert Review Panel is comfortable with its dissolution. As noted above, the Panel is the creation of King County Code to review the traffic concurrency system and make recommendations to the Executive and Council regarding that system. With the changes to this system, and the current economic climate, the Panel is in agreement with KCDOT that it be appropriately dissolved.

On behalf of the Panel, I wish to express that it has been a pleasure to serve the County. Over the years, the Panel has appreciated the opportunity to work with the professional and well organized County staff. We are grateful to have provided service to King County.

Honorable Dow Constantine
King County Executive
Honorable King County Council
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Sincerely,



Duana T. Koloušková

Direct Tel: (425) 467-9966

Email: kolouskova@jmmlaw.com

cc: Roads Services Division
TCERP Members

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