



King County

Dow Constantine

King County Executive

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September 29, 2020

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

Dear Councilmember Balducci:

This letter transmits the report on Implementation of a Kenmore Water Taxi Route Proviso Response as called for by Ordinance 18835, Section 107, Proviso P1 and a proposed motion that would, if enacted, acknowledge receipt of the report.

As required, the enclosed report provides an update on the route information included in the 2015 ferry expansion options report along with summaries of planning efforts, environmental impact analysis and coordination with local agencies. It includes funding options, summary of public outreach and the steps for moving forward to implement a Kenmore route.

In developing the report, the Marine Division engaged with local agencies and property owners to review the potential for operating a passenger-only ferry service from Kenmore to Seattle and documented the opportunities and challenges associated with this potential route. Public outreach was performed utilizing a community survey.

The report provides a summary analysis of the updates for the various requirements needed to implement a Kenmore passenger ferry route. This summary indicates that a passenger ferry route is feasible if funding is secured. However, the current economic conditions caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, as well as Metro's focus on expanding transit in areas of greatest need in the communities of priority populations, have a substantial impact on how transit service will be prioritized in the near term.

The work outlined in this report furthers both the King County Strategic Plan's Mobility goal and the Strategic Climate Action Plan's Transportation and Land Use goal of reducing reliance on driving. More work is needed to review how this route would be prioritized in terms of advancing equity given Metro's plans for changes to policies, programs, services, and investment strategies to better advance equity through Metro's operations.

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The report was produced by a consultant working with department staff. The consultant task was budgeted at \$200,000, with an additional Metro staff time at an approximate cost of \$16,250 for about 250 hours over 12 months.

Thank you for your consideration of this report. The updates for implementation of a Kenmore water taxi route will be retained and used to further inform the long-term mobility plans for Metro. If your staff have any questions, please feel free to contact Paul Brodeur, Marine Division Director, Metro Transit Department, at 206-477-3966.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dow Constantine".

Dow Constantine
King County Executive

Enclosure

cc: King County Councilmembers
ATTN: Carolyn Busch, Chief of Staff
Melani Pedroza, Clerk of the Council
Shannon Braddock, Deputy Chief of Staff, Office of the Executive
Karan Gill, Director, Council Relations, Office of the Executive
Terry White, Interim General Manager, Metro Transit Department