



King County

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King County Executive

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August 15, 2022

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 a proposed Ordinance that would, if enacted, enable amendment of the intergovernmental agreement (IGA) between King County and Sound Transit. Concurrent with this transmittal, I am sending to the Council proposed legislation that would transfer the Downtown Seattle Transit Tunnel (DSTT) to Sound Transit. That proposed companion legislation necessitates that the County reflect the transfer in the present IGA. The proposed IGA amendment reflects the DSTT transfer and includes language that shifts the insurance coverage of the DSTT to Sound Transit, as well as other related operational practices.

To facilitate the operations of rail provided by King County, Sound Transit and the County entered into an IGA to operate and maintain Link light rail in June 2003. Previously, Sound Transit and the County determined that revision of the June 2003 IGA was necessary to incorporate clear practices and procedures for carrying out the operation of the Link light rail as well as the SeaTac International Airport segment of the system in the agreement. The June 2003 IGA was revised in 2009 for a term of five years and five one-year extensions; it was renewed in 2019.

Link light rail provides a high-capacity transit system comprised of a light rail component that currently operates between Seattle, Tukwila, SeaTac International Airport, Angle Lake, Northgate, and the University of Washington. Light rail extensions are planned for Bellevue, Redmond, Lynnwood, and Federal Way by 2024. Further extensions to West Seattle, Ballard, Tacoma, Kirkland and Issaquah are planned between 2030-2041.

The amendment of the IGA supports the King County Strategic Plan goal to deliver a safe, reliable, and seamless network of transportation options to get people and goods where they need to go, when they need to get there as well as the goal of efficient, accountable regional and local government.

The Honorable Claudia Balducci

August 15, 2022

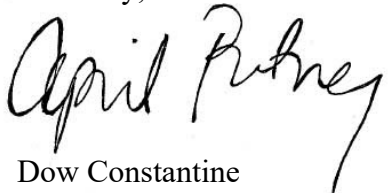
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Thank you for your consideration of this proposed Ordinance. This action will help King County residents enjoy a safe, well-maintained DSTT for years to come with regional expansion of rail service.

As noted above, transmitted concurrently and separately to this proposed Ordinance is proposed legislation which would approve the transfer of the Downtown Seattle Transit Tunnel (DSTT) from King County to Sound Transit. I am therefore requesting that the proposed transfer agreement and the proposed IGA amendment be considered together by the Council.

If your staff have any questions, please contact Kim Becklund, Strategic Planning Manager, Capital Division, Metro Transit Department, at 206-263-1160.

Sincerely,

 for

Dow Constantine
King County Executive

Enclosure

cc: King County Councilmembers
ATTN: Stephanie Cirkovich, Chief of Staff
Melani Pedroza, Clerk of the Council
Shannon Braddock, Chief of Staff, Office of the Executive
Karan Gill, Deputy Chief of Staff, Office of the Executive
Mina Hashemi, Council Relations Director, Office of the Executive
Terry White, General Manager, Metro Transit Department (MTD)
Michael Chargualaf, Interim Director, Capital Division, MTD