



# KING COUNTY

1200 King County Courthouse  
516 Third Avenue  
Seattle, WA 98104

## Signature Report

November 12, 2014

### Ordinance 17936

Proposed No. 2014-0426.2

Sponsors Dembowski

1 AN ORDINANCE relating to the county auditor,  
2 creating a Metro transit audit function; and adding a  
3 new section to K.C.C. chapter 2.20.

4 STATEMENT OF FACTS:

- 5 1. Section 250 of the King County Charter requires the council to  
6 establish an independent county auditor. This required function is  
7 established K.C.C. chapter 2.20.
- 8 2. The county auditor regularly conducts financial and performance audits  
9 of county agencies, including specifically identified law enforcement  
10 audits and capital projects oversight.
- 11 3. In response to financial and performance questions identified by  
12 council in response to decreased revenues associated with the global  
13 financial downturn and recession beginning in 2008, the auditor has  
14 conducted a broad, multiyear performance audit program of the transit  
15 division.
- 16 4. The performance audits of the transit division have identified numerous  
17 findings regarding policies and operational choices that have aided the  
18 council, executive and transit division in identifying possible resources,

19 reducing costs and increasing the efficiency of the division and Metro  
20 transit system.

21 5. The transit division is one of the largest and most operationally  
22 complex in King County government and the executive proposed  
23 appropriations for the 2015-2016 biennium include more than \$1.38  
24 billion for transit operating expenditures and \$691 million for transit  
25 capital expenditures.

26 BE IT ORDAINED BY THE COUNCIL OF KING COUNTY:

27 NEW SECTION. SECTION 1. There is hereby added to K.C.C. chapter 2.20 a  
28 new section to read as follows:

29 A. The county auditor shall establish an ongoing transit audit function, in order to  
30 conduct performance and financial audits consistent with government audit standards and  
31 as described in K.C.C. 2.20.035, of the county's transit services program within the  
32 department of transportation and commonly referred to as the Metro transit system.

33 B.1. In addition to or as part of the regular audits required in subsection A. of this  
34 section, the auditor shall conduct a review and assessment of the Metro transit system  
35 performance, system allocation and financial reports for:

36 a. compliance with transit policies, including but not limited to the Strategic  
37 Plan for Public Transportation 2011-2021, the King County Metro Service Guidelines  
38 and Public Transportation Fund Management policies, or their successor adopted  
39 documents; and

40 b. comparison to peer transit agencies.

41           2. For any assessment performed under this subsection, the auditor shall file the  
42 assessment in the form of a paper original and electronic copy with the clerk of the  
43 council, who shall retain the original and provide an electronic copy to all  
44 councilmembers, the council's chief of staff and policy staff director and the lead staff for  
45 the government accountability and oversight and transportation, economy and  
46 environment committees or their successors. The auditor shall post a copy of the  
47 assessment on the Internet within five days of transmitting it to the council.

48           C. The auditor shall identify the elements of subsections A. and B. of this section  
49 to be performed in the audit work program described in K.C.C. 2.20.045.

50           D. By July 1 of each even-numbered year, the auditor shall file a report  
51 summarizing the results of work completed in the last twenty-four months in relation to  
52 subsections A. and B. of this section, and report on whether and what actions the county  
53 took responsive to findings in transit audits and assessments completed in the previous  
54 three years. The auditor shall file the report in the form of an original and electronic copy  
55 with the clerk of the council, who shall retain the original and provide an electronic copy  
56 to all councilmembers, the council's chief of staff and policy staff director and the lead  
57 staff for the government accountability and oversight and transportation, economy and  
58 environment committees or their successors. The auditor shall post a copy of the report  
59 on the Internet within five days of transmitting it to the council.

60           E. To accomplish the purposes of this section, the auditor shall utilize qualified  
61 personnel with expertise in public transportation and as necessary, retain independent  
62 consulting services with appropriate expertise.

63 F. Following filing of the second biennial report, the council shall, in  
64 consultation with the auditor, assess the benefits and costs of the transit audit  
65 function for the purpose of evaluating whether to retain it in its current form,  
66 modify it or repeal it.

67 SECTION 2. The first performance audit required by section 1.A. of this  
68 ordinance and the first review and assessment of the Metro transit system  
69 performance reports required by section 1.B. of this ordinance shall include an

70 evaluation of the American Public Transportation Association Peer Review Panel  
71 Final Report, 2014-RPT0125 recommendations.  
72

Ordinance 17936 was introduced on 10/6/2014 and passed as amended by the Metropolitan King County Council on 11/10/2014, by the following vote:

Yes: 9 - Mr. Phillips, Mr. von Reichbauer, Mr. Gossett, Ms. Hague,  
Ms. Lambert, Mr. Dunn, Mr. McDermott, Mr. Dembowski and Mr.  
Upthegrove  
No: 0  
Excused: 0

KING COUNTY COUNCIL  
KING COUNTY, WASHINGTON



Larry Phillips, Chair

ATTEST:



Anne Noris, Clerk of the Council

APPROVED this 21 day of NOVEMBER, 2014.



Dow Constantine, County Executive

**Attachments:** None

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