



Denis Law Mayor

December 11, 2019

Rob Gannon, General Manager
King County Metro Transit
201 South Jackson Street
Seattle, WA 98104
Sent Via Electronic Mail

RE: Support for proposed Renton-Kent-Auburn Mobility Plan (RKAAMP) service changes in King County

Dear Mr. Gannon:

This letter is to express City of Renton's support for the proposed Renton-Kent-Auburn Mobility Plan (RKAAMP) service changes in King County. The City of Renton actively participated in the RKAAMP Partner Review Board and was included in outreach to the community as well as briefings to Renton City Council during the planning process. We look forward to continuing the work with King County Metro as the project moves forward to implementation.

The proposed service changes address specific priority needs identified by the Mobility Board, consisting of community members from each of the three cities. We support the added service frequency from the Renton Highlands to Downtown Renton (Route 105) and Fairwood to Southcenter (Route 906), as well as the development of the new frequent service route to service the transit spine between Renton and Auburn. Timing Route 906 to be able to make connections with the Sounder Commuter Train is a great example of cross-jurisdiction coordination for the benefit of the transportation network as a whole, and we are excited to see the main north-south route transform into the RapidRide I Line in 2023.

With respect to mobility plan's project goals of increasing network efficiency and investing in equity priority areas, we strongly support the continued development of flexible services for the Renton Highlands and the Benson Hill areas. Service gaps have been identified in these areas for people to reach key destinations and, although the added service frequency helps meet existing ridership needs, the proposed flexible services address an important access to transit need and could be the trigger to shift people's primary commute mode. The Highlands, Benson, and Talbot areas have the highest percentages of the population who are non-English speakers in 2019 at 41%, 36%, and 35% respectively.

Renton commends Metro for conducting an inclusive outreach process with continuous attendance at public events, stakeholder interviews, online surveys, regular City Council Committee of the Whole updates, and regular meetings and coordination with City staff.

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We appreciate Metro's efforts to identify the service needs and access gaps throughout the City through the RKAAMP and the RapidRide I Line processes as well as the Renton Access to Transit Study.

We look forward to continuing our partnership with Metro through implementation of these service changes as we collectively seek to improve mobility and service delivery in Renton. If you have further questions, please do not hesitate to contact our Transportation Director Jim Seitz at 425-430-7245 or jseitz@rentonwa.gov.

Sincerely,



Denis Law,
Mayor

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cc: Natalie Westberg, Transportation Planner, King County Metro
Chris O'Claire, Mobility Division Director, King County Metro
Gregg Zimmerman, Public Works Administrator, City of Renton
Jim Seitz, Transportation Director, City of Renton
Vangie Garcia, Transportation Planning and Programming Manager, City of Renton

