



**King County**

**Dow Constantine**

King County Executive  
401 Fifth Avenue, Suite 800  
Seattle, WA 98104-1818

**206-263-9600** Fax 206-296-0194

TTY Relay: 711

[www.kingcounty.gov](http://www.kingcounty.gov)

October 6, 2021

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 Motion that, if enacted, would authorize the King County Executive to accept a donation of seven million five-hundred thousand dollars from Amazon to aid King County in the completion of two Eastrail projects in the Wilburton area in Bellevue. In total, this contribution will support completion of the Wilburton Trestle, along with one mile of interim trail and a new signalized street crossing. Once complete, these projects will provide a continuous connection between the new Washington State Department of Transportation Eastrail bridge over I-405 and NE 8th in Bellevue.

The proposed Motion would provide the remaining funds needed to support completion of these projects and thereby close a critical gap in the forty-two-mile Eastrail. These funds are covered under existing appropriation (Ordinance 19210), and no supplemental budget requests are needed at this time. This public private collaboration will enable the region to realize a vision of recreation and non-motorized mobility that connects communities and commercial centers. This donation demonstrates that business and non-profit communities recognize the value of recreation as a key component in making this region a livable, healthy, and attractive place for people to live, work, and play.

As the eastside of King County continues to face unprecedented growth, non-profit organizations, businesses, and governments are coming together to find transportation solutions by improving transportation access and safety. Approval of this proposed legislation would support the King County Strategic Plan mobility goal by increasing the integration between regional trails and high-capacity transit.

The two projects supported by these funds are expected to be completed in 2024, soon after Sound Transit is scheduled to open new Link light rail stations along Eastrail. The completion of these projects will also offer convenient access to bus rapid transit. This seamless mobility integration also addresses the Strategic Climate Action Plan goal of providing and encouraging the use of sustainable transportation choices by increasing the safety and availability of transportation options.

The Honorable Claudia Balducci

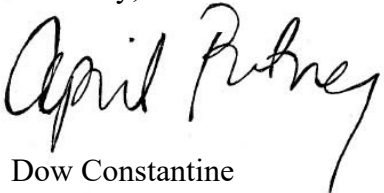
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Thank you for your consideration of this proposed Motion. This important legislation will give trail users increased access to an interconnected, non-motorized active transportation network for more efficient mobility and safe and healthy recreation.

If your staff have any questions, please contact Warren Jimenez, Division Director of the Parks and Recreation Division of the Department of Natural Resources and Parks, at 206-477-4525.

Sincerely,

 for

Dow Constantine  
King County Executive

Enclosure

cc: King County Councilmembers

ATTN: Janine Weihe, Interim 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

Dwight Dively, Director, Office of Performance, Strategy and Budget

Christie True, Director, Department of Natural Resources and Parks (DNRP)

Warren Jimenez, Division Director, Parks and Recreation Division, DNRP