



King County

August 19, 2010

Dear Transit Task Force Members:

Thank you for your hard work and thoughtful discussions over the past several months regarding the future of the Metro Transit system. We appreciate knowing of your interest in extending the Task Force's timetable for another month, with a final report due at the end of October.

As you know, much is at stake for our transit-dependent residents, employers, and their commuters, as well as the financially stressed families in our region and our overall economic recovery. You have the important role of recommending a new policy framework for the King County transit system. The original schedule, while very aggressive, was established as part of a comprehensive approach to ensure our transit system meets the needs of our community now and into the future, including two critically important objectives:

- (1) To take advantage of every opportunity for a meaningful discussion with citizens, the state and the 2011 legislative session, local governments, and stakeholders about the future of transit, as we cannot afford to miss any opportunity for discussion and dialogue to set the stage for future decisions.
- (2) To allow timely Council consideration of policy changes, through standing committees and the Regional Transit Committee, for a meaningful impact on the development of the 2012-2013 biennium budget, which begins in the second quarter of 2011.

While your requested schedule change puts pressure on the above objectives, we are able to accommodate your request through the dedication of our staff and approximately \$20,000 to cover the additional Task Force related expenses. To that end, we have already introduced legislation to amend the Regional Transit Task Force work plan by extending the final report deliverable to the end of October 2010, though no additional delays can be accommodated without impacting these objectives.

Thank you again for the time you have already committed and your willingness to work additional time on behalf of the people of King County. We look forward to receiving and considering your consensus-developed recommendations.

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Sincerely,



Dow Constantine
King County Executive



Larry Phillips
Councilmember, District 4



Jane Hague
Council Vice Chair, District 6



Larry Gossett
Councilmember, District 2



Julia Patterson
Councilmember, District 5