



Transit Audit Program Shows Early Results

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In 2014, the Auditor's Office established an ongoing transit audit function. Since that time, our **office has been continuously engaged in one or more in-depth reviews of King County Metro Transit**, a \$1.4 billion agency that delivers critical transportation services to every corner of King County.

RESULTS SUMMARY



\$2 to \$4 million in savings by 2018



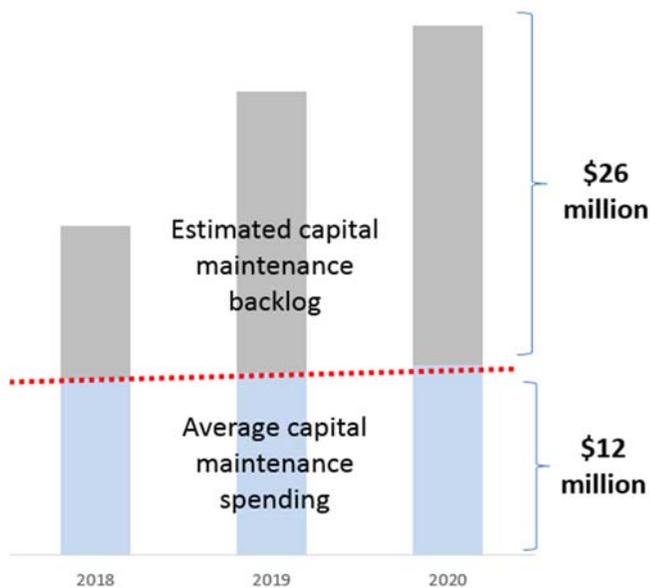
10 recommendations in 3 audit reports



Agency concurred with all of our recommendations

Over the past two years, we established a transit audit team, delivered a council-approved workplan, and completed several significant audits. Through our recommendations, the transit audit program is generating positive financial and operational impacts. This report meets the transit audit reporting requirements set in King County Code, and contributes to our mission of promoting performance, accountability, and transparency in King County government.

Maintenance backlog growing faster than Transit is finishing projects.



Improved Oversight and Upkeep of Fixed Assets

We recommended several ways for Transit to keep its assets in good condition and avoid unnecessary expenditures. Transit has over \$2 billion in fixed assets like bus lifts and HVAC systems. However, it could face up to \$26 million in avoidable costs by 2020 if it cannot keep up with expensive repairs.

Enhanced Bus Part Rebuilding Function

We recommended a number of ways that Transit can improve resource allocation, leading to substantial savings. Transit's vehicle maintenance unit could be saving millions of dollars each year by rebuilding bus parts. However, Transit is not following best practices for deciding what parts to make and what parts to buy.

Recommendations by the American Public Transportation Association

10
Completed

10
In Progress



Ensuring Compliance with Expert Reviews

In 2015, we reviewed the status of 20 recommendations made by the American Public Transportation Association to improve various sections of Transit, including operations, fares, and staffing. We confirmed that half of the recommendations were complete, and the remaining recommendations were in progress and will be reviewed by our office on a regular basis.

Highlighting Past Recommendations to Save Money

We will continue to follow up on issues where the agency is missing opportunities to save taxpayer money. We conducted a comprehensive review of Transit's compliance with items we recommended in past audits. Transit has still not completed work on several issues, including maintenance productivity, facility planning, and vehicle replacement.

Next Steps

Our office will continue to follow up on the recommendations noted above. In addition, several Transit audits are in progress for 2016 and more are being developed for the 2017-2018 biennium. New audits we are initiating later in 2016 include:

- **Transit's Paratransit Program.** Transit's ADA Paratransit Program provides over a million rides each year to persons with disabilities. In 2015, Transit spent about \$60 million to support this program. *Start date:* summer 2016
- **Transit Information Technology Projects.** Transit uses IT to monitor performance and provide more accurate and consistent service. Each year, it sets aside \$15 million to support existing IT projects and develop new ones. *Start date:* fall 2016

I am proud to report that in less than two years, we have found ways for Transit to save millions of taxpayer dollars and improve services. Freeing up these dollars makes it possible for the county to finance other priorities. Our office is currently seeking input for additional high-impact audit topics to include in the 2017-2018 workplan. The transit audit work provides valuable, objective, and impactful insight into one of the county's largest service providers. We appreciate the King County Council's support of this high-impact program, and Transit's openness to working together for positive change.

Kymber Waltmunson, King County Auditor