



King County Metro Transit

King County Metro, recently recognized as the best large transit system in North America, will become an independent County department in 2019.

BACKGROUND

King County has been responsible for public transit since the voter-approved merger of King County with the Municipality of Metropolitan Seattle (Metro) in 1994.

In August 2018, the County Council acted on Executive Constantine's proposal to make Metro Transit a stand-alone department rather than a division of the Department of Transportation. The adopted legislation makes the Metro Transit Department responsible for all of the County's public transportation and passenger-only ferry functions, effective January 1, 2019.

PROPOSED INVESTMENT & ANTICIPATED IMPACT

After 678,000 hours of service growth over four years and record ridership, Metro is poised to deliver on continued expansion while also becoming a more nimble agency and transit system.

Transit investments are guided by Metro's service guidelines and METRO CONNECTS, Transit's long range vision. Highlights of new 2019-2020 investments include a commitment to:

Make transit easy to use, available, and accessible to all.

- Increase bus service by 130,000 hours in partnership with cities and businesses.
- Invest 47,000 hours of service in support of the region's connections to downtown as buses come out of the Downtown Seattle Transit Tunnel and the Alaskan Way Viaduct closes.
- Improve the quality of Access paratransit service.
- Take an income-based approach to fare affordability, including developing a pilot program for people least able to afford mobility.

Get things built.

- Invest in new base capacity to ensure Transit has the space to queue and maintain current and future bus fleets.
- Continue testing and implementing an all-battery electric fleet.
- Develop a transparent capital program that aligns investments with adopted priorities, including maintaining assets and delivering projects to support planned service growth.

METRO BY THE NUMBERS

- Every weekday, Metro carries more than 400,000 riders, including bus, Access paratransit, rideshare, and Community Connections.
- 3,000 operators drive more than 1,500 buses.
- Since 2014, King County has expanded service by more than 15 percent.



King County

2019-2020 Proposed Budget

Partner with others.

- Create centralized resources to support partnerships at all levels throughout the department.
- Contract and build sustainable relationships with community-based organizations in support of outreach and engagement.
- Prioritize partnerships that help advance METRO CONNECTS.

Enable our employees to do top-quality work.

- Develop the workforce of today and tomorrow through expansion of apprenticeship programs.
- Promote employee health and wellbeing by piloting wellness centers at bases.
- Invest in employee training and development.