



**King County**

## **Metro Route “Right-sizing” Program**

Council action directs Metro to move ahead with strategies for introducing more cost-effective transit services on some lower-ridership routes currently served by buses. Recognizing that one type of transit service may not meet the needs of all communities, Metro will explore a variety of alternatives for “right-sizing” services. These alternatives, called for in Metro’s new strategic plan, are promising new tools to maintain transit services for communities that do not have high ridership due to their rural character. The idea of right-sizing would ensure that no community currently served by Metro be left without transit travel options.

To offset service reductions or eliminations on routes that are less productive, Metro will identify a menu of “right-sized” transit services that can effectively replace up to 20,000 hours of traditional fixed-route bus service by June, 2012.

These more cost effective services could include alternatives such as Dial-a-Ride Transit (DART), flexible, demand-responsive small-bus service; community access transportation; and vanpool or enhanced volunteer transportation programs and would benefit communities in east and south King County that are adjacent to rural areas, including currently served rural areas.

Over the next year, Metro will reach out to local cities, human services agencies, community organizations and groups to explore partnerships for creating these various lower-cost services. Metro will also invite residents to help shape these right-sizing strategies.