



CITY OF KIRKLAND

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MEMORANDUM

To: Transportation Commission

From: Stephen Padua, AICP Transportation Planner
David Godfrey, P.E. Transportation Engineering Manager

Date: April 25, 2016

Subject: King County Metro Transit Long Range Plan - Update

King County Metro Transit (Metro) staff will be at the April Commission Meeting to present on the draft Metro Transit Long Range Plan. The City Council will be considering a draft comment letter at their May 17 meeting and the Commission's should make recommendations about the content of that letter

To guide service changes, including addressing the expected service needs identified by local jurisdictions, Metro is developing a Long Range Plan (LRP). More information is available [at Metro's plan website \(http://www.kcmetrovision.org/\)](http://www.kcmetrovision.org/). The Plan contains the following elements:

- A proposed future transit network, consisting of RapidRide, Frequent, Express and Local services (Figure 1). Metro's annual service is expected to increase by 2.3 million annual service hours, from 3.5 million hours today to 5.8 million hours by 2040. Metro identifies a need for a 70 percent expansion of bus service by 2040 – bringing frequent service to within a half mile of 70 percent of the county's population.
- Descriptions of investments to make service faster and more reliable. These include bus lanes, transit signal priority, and ORCA card readers that allow customers to pay before boarding and get on at any door. Metro intends to employ innovative methods and promote technological advances to help transit riders' access transit service.
- Exploration of non-transit flexible services to connect transit service to areas that are historically underserved. In order to give customers options where fixed-route bus service is not a good fit, local services would be tailored to be more flexible, innovative, and cost-effective through non-traditional methods of service. This includes a framework for incorporating alternative types of public transportation into the transit network.
- Methods to enhance the experience for people who use Metro's services. This system will:
 - Deliver real-time information about more things (bus arrivals, seat availability, delays and re-routes, etc.) to more customers.
 - Enhance wayfinding throughout the system and improve tactile and auditory information.

- Make it easier to walk and bike to transit by investing with partners to fund hundreds of miles of new trails and paths, sidewalks, and bicycle parking facilities at transit hubs around King County.
 - Make the best use of our park and rides to maximize ridership through strategies such as parking permits, paid parking and real-time parking availability information.
 - Work with Sound Transit and other partners to increase park-and-ride capacity by up to 50 percent by 2040.
 - Improve customer comfort and safety by investing in 4,500 accessible bus stops, shelters, stations and transit centers.
 - Making boarding easier and faster.
- Types of partnerships to construct the necessary infrastructure to support increased transit service and for acquiring the necessary funding sources to implement service and capital investments.

The draft Executive Summary of the Metro Connects Plan is attached (Attachment A). The King County Metro Connects Draft Plan can be viewed on the draft plan website. The Link is here: <http://www.kcmetrovision.org/plan/metro-connects-draft-plan/>.

Staff has asked Metro staff to cover the following points in their presentation to the Commission:

- Discuss the elements of the plan.
- Discuss the increased accessibility of transit and compare existing service to the 2040 network.
- Describe how the LRP is coordinated with the draft ST3 system plan.
- Describe, in general, the major changes being proposed in the transit network compared to today's service to key destinations: Downtown Bellevue and Redmond, Overlake, Lake Union, U-District (frequency, span of service and capital elements).
- Discuss the service across SR-520.
- Describe how the opening of U-Link will change the way service is operated between Kirkland and downtown Seattle.
- How does Metro plan to incorporate the Cross Kirkland Corridor in the future Transit network?
- Trips provided through Kirkland in the 2040 transit network compared to the trips necessary to support the projected growth.
- Under the proposed network, what are the necessary capital improvements in place to support the expanded service in Kirkland and what is still needed?
- What feedback was received at the joint open house events, held with Sound Transit?
- Please explain the Regional Transit Committee's role for the final phases of the LRP development.

Metro plans to have joint open house events with Sound Transit on the following dates and at the following locations:

Date	Time	Location	Address
April 26	5:30 – 7:30pm	West Seattle	West Seattle High School, 3000 California Ave SW
April 27	5:30 – 7:30pm	Redmond	Old Redmond Schoolhouse Community Center, 16600 NE 80th St
April 28	11:30am – 1:30pm	Downtown Seattle	Union Station, 401 S Jackson St
April 28	5:30 – 7:30pm	Federal Way	Todd Beamer High School, 35999 16th Ave S

Metro is requesting comments from jurisdictions and the public by May 20th. It would be helpful for staff to understand any points that the Commission would like to have in the May 17th letter.

Metro staff expects to transmit the LRP in July 2016 for approval from the King County Council in late 2016.

Figure 1: Metro Connects 2040 Transit Network through Kirkland

