



**CITY OF KIRKLAND**

123 Fifth Avenue, Kirkland, WA 98033 (425) 587-3000  
www.ci.kirkland.wa.us

---

**To:** Dave Ramsay, City Manager

**From:** Daryl Grigsby, Public Works Director  
David Godfrey P.E., Transportation Engineering Manager

**Date:** July 21, 2006

**Subject:** Recommendation for placing Transit Now initiative on the ballot

RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that the Council authorize the Mayor to sign the attached letter to the King County Council requesting that the County Executive's Transit Now initiative be placed before the voters in fall 2006.

BACKGROUND:

The County Executive has proposed an initiative known as Transit Now which would provide increased transit service for Metro Transit. The measure would be funded by a 0.1% increase in sales tax. The County Council must approve placing the measure on the ballot. The Council's Transportation Committee is expected to act on July 26 and refer the measure to the full Council for action on August 21.

Council received a detailed briefing on the plan in May. The key points of the plan as described on the King County website are listed below:

**RapidRide**—Create "bus rapid transit" (BRT) with frequent all-day service and faster travel times on five key travel corridors: three in Seattle; one connecting Bellevue and Redmond; and one serving SeaTac, Des Moines and Federal Way.

**Improve current service**—Enhance 35 major Metro routes with the highest ridership to provide more frequent two-way, all-day service between key cities and neighborhoods.

**New service for growing areas**—Develop new peak and midday service for residential areas in East and South King County.

**Service partnerships**—Set aside resources for partnerships with major employers and cities, potentially leveraging millions in additional funding from other sources to add new service in rapidly expanding employment centers.

With the proposed letter, the Kirkland Council would not be taking a position on the measure but simply supporting its inclusion on the November 2006 ballot.

**DRAFT**

August 2, 2006

Mr. Larry Philips  
Chair, King County Council  
516 Third Avenue, Room 1200,  
Seattle, WA 98104-3272

Dear Mr. Phillips:

It is our understanding that later this month the County Council will consider whether or not to place the County Executive's Transit Now proposal before the voters. In May, we received a briefing from Metro staff and found the proposal intriguing.

Because the final plan details are still under consideration by the County Council we are not able to take a position on the initiative at this time. However, we support its inclusion on the November 2006 ballot. This is primarily because we believe asking the voter's opinion on Transit Now initiative fits well with other transportation questions scheduled for the 2007 ballot. These of course are the Regional Transportation Improvement District and the second phase of Sound Transit. Because these proposals primarily concern highways and regional transit respectively, the Transit Now proposal; aimed largely at local transit, makes for a balanced group of questions to put before the voters.

Thank you for your consideration of our position and we look forward to learning more about the final Transit Now proposal in the months ahead.

Sincerely,  
Kirkland City Council

James L. Lauinger  
Mayor

cc Jane Hague, King County Councilmember