



CITY OF KIRKLAND
Department of Public Works
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To: Dave Ramsay, City Manager

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

Date: April 24, 2008

Subject: CORRESPONDENCE FROM MS. LAURIE POULSON

RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that the City Council authorize the Mayor to sign a letter of response to Ms. Poulson who wrote to express her concern with possible altering of Metro Route 277.

BACKGROUND DISCUSSION:

At their April 1, 2008 meeting Council reviewed options for funding a continuation of certain runs on Route 255; the funding for which will end in September of 2008. One option for continuing the 255 service was to eliminate runs on Route 277 and transfer the service hours to the 255. After hearing from a number of 277 riders and other concerned parties Council rejected the notion of altering the 277 to fund the 255. Ms. Poulson currently uses the 277 and is urging that service not be cut.

On April 1, Council directed staff to explore ways of continuing the 255 without cutting the 277. We are working with Metro and other potential partners to find a solution that does not alter the 277 and we plan to report back to Council at the May 20 Council meeting.

-----Original Message-----

From: Laurie Poulson [<mailto:jplo1@mindspring.com>]

Sent: Tuesday, April 08, 2008 11:13 AM

To: KirklandCouncil

Subject: Metro 277

Dear Council Members,

I am writing in response to a rumor I heard that Metro is planning to discontinue Route 277. I am writing to strongly oppose such a plan. I live in the Highlands neighborhood which is west of I-405 and north of Central Way (85th). I work and study at the University of Washington. I take the 277 from the University and walk home a bit less than a mile across the pedestrian/emergency overpass on 100th. This replaces my previous method of getting home which utilized the ST 540 and then the Metro 238 bus, which has been rerouted and no longer provides access to neighborhood. My entire family is actively attempting to cut down on our use of the car for both financial and environmental reasons but Metro is not helping.

The problem with the suburbs, from the perspective of transit, is that it is hard to reach people because of the cul-de-sac design. Our neighborhood is a perfect example of this problem. The 277 route currently provides an excellent bus connection to the Highlands neighborhood as well as the neighborhoods north of I-405. In addition, it services a much broader area from the Houghton Park and Ride. At this time, when more and more people are looking for transit options, it is not reasonable to eliminate this run. Many people are just looking at what transit has to offer. If there are not enough riders on the bus then perhaps it makes more sense to 1) make the route more practical by increasing bus access to the Houghton Park and Ride during the day and 2) advertise the existence of the route. It goes right by Lake Washington High School - perhaps it is reasonable to eliminate the bus that runs through the neighborhood twice a day merely to pick up/drop off Lk. Wash. students and encourage them to walk the short way across the overpass to catch the 277.

I urge you to strongly oppose the discontinuation of King County Metro route 277. Thank you for your consideration.

Laurie Poulson
9713 112th Ave NE
Kirkland, WA 98033-5145

DRAFT

May 7, 2008

Ms. Laurie Poulson
9713 112th Ave NE
Kirkland, WA 98033-5145

Dear Ms. Poulson:

Thank you for your email to the Kirkland City Council concerning King County Metro route 277. Maintaining efficient and cost effective transit service is also a concern of the City Council.

Our discussion of Route 277 originated with a need to examine options for continuing service on Metro's Route 255. Third party funding for certain 255 runs is expiring and Council is examining ways of providing a new funding source. As part of the City's discussion with Metro, discontinuing certain runs on Route 277 was examined at one point as a possible means of continuing 255 service. After hearing from neighbors and your fellow Route 277 riders, the City Council rejected the idea of changing this route.

We are currently working with Metro and other potential funding partners on other ways of continuing the Route 255 service that would not impact Route 277. At our May 20 Council meeting, we'll be considering these ideas and we encourage you to attend and address the City Council during the public comment period.

It's gratifying to hear that you have found that Route 277 serves your needs and we hope that you and your family will continue to find transit to be a realistic alternative to driving alone.

Sincerely,
KIRKLAND CITY COUNCIL

James L. Lauinger
Mayor