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Attachments:	

1 ..Title

2 AN ORDINANCE waiving transit fares in certain
3 emergencies; and amending Ordinance 17130, Section 14,
4 and K.C.C. 4A.700.630 and Ordinance 11033, Section 5, as
5 amended, and K.C.C. 28.94.020.

6 ..Body

7 STATEMENT OF FACTS:

8 1. The Metro transit department's emergency snow network ("ESN") was
9 developed after a winter storm in December 2008 left buses stranded on
10 unplowed roads and many riders without reliable service. The ESN was
11 developed in coordination and collaboration with jurisdictions to take
12 advantage of designated snow plow plans.

13 2. In February 2019, King County experienced record high snowfall over
14 an extended period.

15 3. During that period of heavy snowfall, the Metro transit department
16 enacted its ESN for the first time since its development, severely reducing
17 service to include only core bus routes and shuttles primarily serving key
18 arterials and transit centers.

19 3. Authorities opened additional extreme weather shelters for those
20 experiencing homelessness or power outages.

- 21 4. The record snowfall and freezing temperatures during that time
22 contributed to at least three deaths from exposure, and increased rates of
23 traffic accidents.
- 24 5. K.C.C. 4A.700.630 allows the director of the Metro transit department
25 to waive or reduce transit fares during emergencies.
- 26 6. Waiving transit fares during severe snowstorms could increase the
27 accessibility of transit service for those experiencing homelessness and
28 other difficulties, and could increase safety by encouraging people to use
29 transit as transportation to reach shelter and avoid driving.

30 BE IT ORDAINED BY THE COUNCIL OF KING COUNTY:

31 SECTION 1. Ordinance 17130, Section 14, and K.C.C. 4A.700.630 are each
32 hereby amended to read as follows:

33 If an emergency exists as provided for in K.C.C. 28.94.020.B.2., the director of
34 the Metro transit department may waive or discount fares otherwise established in
35 chapter. If an emergency exists as provided for in K.C.C. 28.94.020.B.2.c., the director
36 shall waive fares otherwise established in chapter.

37 SECTION 2. Ordinance 11033, Section 5, as amended, and K.C.C. 28.94.020 are
38 each hereby amended to read as follows:

39 A. Regular routes shall include numbered routes and descriptions therefor as
40 established and revised from time to time by the council. The regular routes, including
41 implementation dates, shall be described in a document called "Public Transit Regular
42 Routes." The director shall ensure that said routes shall be operated and implemented
43 except as otherwise provided in this section.

44 B. Changes to regular routes shall be subject to approval by the council except as
45 specifically provided in this section.

46 1. The director is authorized to approve and implement the following changes of
47 established routes and schedules and to update the "Public Transit Regular Routes"
48 document accordingly:

49 a. any single change or cumulative changes in a service schedule that affect the
50 established weekly service hours for a route by twenty-five percent or less;

51 b. any change in route location that does not move the location of any route
52 stop by more than one half mile; and

53 c. any changes in route numbers.

54 2.a. In addition, if, in the opinion of the director, an emergency exists that
55 requires any change to established routes, schedules or classes of service, the director
56 may implement such a change for such a period as may be necessary in the director's
57 judgment or until such a time as the council shall establish by ordinance otherwise. Such
58 changes that the director intends to be permanent shall be reported in writing to the chair
59 of the council.

60 b. If an emergency exists as provided for in this subsection B.2., the director
61 may waive or discount fares otherwise established in K.C.C. chapter 4A.700.

62 c. If an emergency exists such that the director activates the department's
63 emergency snow network, which is severely reduced service including only core bus
64 routes and shuttles primarily serving key arterials and transit centers, the director shall
65 wave fares otherwise established in K.C.C. chapter 4A.700.

66 C. Other routes, such as but not limited to tripper service, limited, special,
67 customized and other types of transit routes, may be established by the director consistent
68 with annual appropriations and the comprehensive plan.

69 D. The director shall establish transit schedules for all routes and classes of
70 service consistent with annual appropriations and the comprehensive plan.

71 E. The director shall periodically review and evaluate the effectiveness of all
72 public transit routes and services, requests for changes to the routes and services, and the
73 requirements of the comprehensive plan and shall prepare recommendations to the
74 council for changes to routes and services.

75 F. Within service area boundaries approved by the council and consistent with
76 annual appropriations and the comprehensive plan, the director is authorized to plan,
77 implement and modify dial-a-ride service (DART), including, but not limited to,
78 establishing general routes from which vehicles may deviate in response to demand.

79 G. The director is authorized and directed to establish such guidelines, and
80 procedures as may be necessary to implement the policies set forth in this chapter. In
81 establishing such guidelines and procedures, the director shall provide for consultation
82 with citizens and each component jurisdiction in advance of any major route or service
83 changes affecting such jurisdictions.