

August 5, 2010

TO: King County Transit Task Force

FM: Grant Degginger, City of Bellevue
Jim Stanton, Microsoft
Tom Rasmussen, City of Seattle

RE: Extension of Task Force Schedule and Alternatives Development

In March we began the Regional Transit Task Force's work of addressing specific charges in King County Motion 13189:

- Concurrence with or proposed changes to King County Metro's vision and mission
- Criteria for growing or retracting the transit system
- Measures to increase system efficiency
- State and federal legislative agenda to secure funding

Since our first meeting we have accomplished much with the leadership and staff expertise of Metro and our facilitator John Howell.

The Task Force has been working very hard, and with the support of Metro staff, has advanced the discussion on how to scale Metro services to available resources and align them with Vision 2040. We appreciate the willingness of Metro and facilitator John Howell to set up sub groups on efficiencies and performance measures to allow greater examination of these important issues while the whole Task Force proceeded with discussion of ways to approach service cuts and adds.

The current schedule for the Task Force to complete its work, however, does not sufficiently allow for the integration of all sub group efforts. For example, we believe that the Task Force should have adequate time to review and make recommendations on the Performance Sub Group's work on performance measures for the six "key factors" set out by Council.

We are writing to formally request that the full Task Force join us in supporting an extension of the Task Force schedule to at least until November 30th. If the work of the Task Force is to result in responsive recommendations to our charge, which we support as an outcome, further work is needed.

As part of the extended efforts, we recommend that the Task Force more fully consider alternative service allocation concepts and scenarios for both service adds and cuts that are generated based on clear service design parameters and then evaluate them against a meaningful set of performance measures—a new policy framework that could be considered by the County Council for updates to Strategic and Comprehensive Plans

in future years. We believe that the Task Force can do this work if the schedule is extended by two to three months and the work program is recalibrated.

Finally, we believe that before the legislature and the public will support devoting any additional resources to transit, the County must demonstrate its commitment to change by (1) adopting new policies governing how the agency will be run; and (2) making strides in delivering operational efficiencies. Doing so will demonstrate the commitment to long term sustainability necessary to engender confidence in making further investments.

Thank you for your consideration of our joint request.

cc: Dow Constantine, King County Executive
King County Councilmembers
Fred Jarrett, Deputy County Executive
Kevin Desmond, Metro General Manager
John Howell, Task Force Facilitator