Metro Policy Updates

Mobility & Environment Committee
January 27, 2021
Presentation Goals

• Recap plans for 2021 policy updates
• Review potential scenarios for Service Guidelines approach to Service Growth (Priority 3)
Grounding in Core Values

• Mobility is more than a service – it can have profound outcomes

• **By centering equity, climate, and safety in Metro’s work, we can better advance key outcomes**
  - This theory of change is consistent with recommendations in adopted Mobility Framework
  - A focus on equity and leading with race aligns with King County’s ESJ ordinance

• We ask you to consider those values and how the region can best deliver healthy communities, a thriving economy, and a sustainable environment as you review the material
Strategic Plan
Strategic Plan

• Strategic Plan outlines Metro’s goals, the strategies and objectives to achieve them, measures to determine if we are succeeding

• Goals are:

1. Safety
2. Human potential
3. Economic growth & built environment
4. Environmental sustainability
5. Service excellence
6. Financial stewardship
7. Public engagement & transparency
8. Quality workforce
UPDATES: Strategic Plan

Updates will:

• **Align** goals, strategies and objectives with the Mobility Framework’s Guiding Principles and recommendations

• **Include** updated information on:
  • Marine Division
  • Climate goals
  • Innovation
  • Equitable transit-oriented communities' policy

• **Simplify** performance measures, align them with policy drivers, and make them more transparent (online dashboard)
## Intent: Guiding Principles  

**Mobility Framework Guiding Principles...** 

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Guiding Principle</th>
<th>REPLACE existing Strategic Plan Goals</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Invest where needs are greatest</td>
<td>Goal 2. Human Potential</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Address the climate crisis &amp; environmental justice</td>
<td>Goal 4. Environmental Sustainability</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Innovate equitably and sustainably</td>
<td>---</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ensure safety</td>
<td>Goal 1. Safety</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Encourage dense, affordable housing near transit</td>
<td>Goal 3. Economic Growth &amp; Built Environment</td>
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<tr>
<td>Improve access to mobility</td>
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<tr>
<td>Provide fast, reliable, integrated mobility services</td>
<td>Goal 5. Service Excellence</td>
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<tr>
<td>Support our workforce</td>
<td>Goal 8. Quality Workforce</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Align our investments with equity, sustainability, and financial responsibility</td>
<td>Goal 6. Financial Stewardship</td>
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<tr>
<td>Engage deliberately and transparently</td>
<td>Goal 7. Public Engagement &amp; Transparency</td>
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</table>
# Proposal: Adapted Guiding Principles ➡️ Strategic Plan Goals

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Mobility Framework Guiding Principles...</th>
<th>REFRAMED as new Goal Statements (not numbered)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Invest where needs are greatest</td>
<td>Investments are made upstream and where needs are greatest</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Address the climate crisis &amp; environmental justice</td>
<td>Meaningful progress in addressing the climate crisis and environmental justice</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Innovate equitably and sustainably</td>
<td>Innovation improves mobility, complements transit, and advances equity and sustainability</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ensure safety</td>
<td>Passengers, employees, and communities are safe</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Encourage dense, affordable housing near transit</td>
<td>Thriving, equitable, transit-oriented communities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Improve access to mobility</td>
<td>Improved access to mobility</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Provide fast, reliable, integrated mobility services</td>
<td>Fast, reliable, integrated mobility services</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Support our workforce</td>
<td>A skilled, diverse, well-supported workforce with opportunities to grow</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Align our investments with equity, sustainability, and financial responsibility</td>
<td>Be responsible stewards of financial resources and invest in line with values and goals</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Engage deliberately and transparently</td>
<td>Deliberate and transparent engagement with communities</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

King County METRO
Moving forward together
Dashboard will be like “The Dash”

Ridership Impact
Change in average weekday boardings from last year to this year and the percent change

-328,534
Nov 2020

-70.9%
Nov 2020

Percent Change in Average Weekday Boardings

For more information, visit: kingcounty.gov/thedash or kingcounty.gov/thedash/es
Service Guidelines
Service Guidelines

• Set framework for evaluation and reporting on existing services
• Provide guidance for planning and designing service
• Inform system planning
  • Investment
  • Reductions
  • Restructures and changes
UPDATES: Service Guidelines

Updates will:

- Align priorities with Mobility Framework
- Identify roles and performance measures for Flexible Services
- Prioritize equity in all service investments
- Describe land uses that support each transit service type
- Better incorporate METRO CONNECTS
- Update engagement and partnership sections
- Create guidelines for Marine Service
- Look at low-performing routes for negative greenhouse gas impacts
Metro Connects Means Countywide Need Grows

- Metro Connects network and service levels vastly increase the service need throughout the county
  - Target service levels include a minimum of 1-hour headways throughout King County

- The more funding Metro has, the further we can invest down the priority list.
  - There are many implementation options if new resources and funding are available

- These options are aiming for long-term growth, so they build on our existing network

- COVID-19 has resulted in near-term emergency changes that were driven by factors other than the guidelines (e.g. collapse of peak commute) but in the long-term these policies will describe how our system grows
Defining What We Mean

**Equity**
- King County defines equity as a system of fairness, providing full and equal access to opportunities, power, and resources. King County is leading with racial justice because historical and racial inequities continue to affect all of us, and our region’s ability to thrive.”
- Metro is proposing to use five equity factors from Census data: race, income, disability, foreign born, and limited English-speaking populations

**Productivity**
- Potential productivity is defined in Priority 3 analysis by measuring the potential market for transit based on land use and growth. It measures the number of households, jobs, students, and park-and-rides along the corridor. Higher concentrations of people support higher potential use of transit.
- Route productivity is the defined in annual evaluations by using two measures of actual measured ridership—*rides per platform hour* and *passenger miles per platform mile*. These are standard metrics for transit efficiency that define how many customers a route serves and how full buses are along their route.

**Geographic Value**
- Establishes the value a corridor provides by connecting to, from, and between PSRC-defined Regional Centers and Metro-defined transit activity centers throughout King County

**Low- & medium-income jobs**
- The Longitudinal Employment Household Dynamics (LEHD) considers a job with a monthly wage of less than $1,250 a low-wage job and jobs with monthly wages between $1,251 and $3,330 to be medium-wage jobs
All Scenarios
Top 50 Routes (Top 25 Routes Identified in Gold)

Priority order (current): Geographic Value, Productivity, Equity

Priority order: Equity, Productivity, Geographic Value

Priority order: Equity, Geographic Value, Productivity

Priority order: Productivity, Equity, Geographic Value
Equity First Scenarios
Top 50 Routes (Top 25 Routes Identified in Gold)

Priority order: Equity, Productivity, Geographic Value (preferred alternative)

Top 50 Service Gap Routes: Leading with Equity
(Equity, Productivity, Geographic Value)

Moving forward together
Equity First Scenarios
Top 50 Routes (Top 10 Routes Identified in Gold)

Priority order: Equity, Productivity, Geographic Value (preferred alternative)

Top 50 Service Gap Routes: Leading with Equity
(Equity, Productivity, Geographic Value)

Top 50 Service Gap Routes: Leading with Equity
(Equity, Geographic Value, Productivity)
Metro Connects
METRO CONNECTS

• METRO CONNECTS is our adopted vision for the future, based on regional growth plans

• It aims to increase bus service hours by 70% between 2015 – 2040

• 2040 network would be larger with better access throughout the county, including for communities of color and low-income people

• The plan covers capital investments (bus bases, roadway improvements) and partnership opportunities

• METRO CONNECTS is not fully funded, so additional regional funding is needed
UPDATES: METRO CONNECTS

Updates will:

• Update costs for inflation, population growth, ST3, etc.
• Incorporate mobility framework recommendations (including equity and climate goals)
• Update sections to reflect current direction and add new sections as needed (ie, more information re-electrification, Marine)
• Clarify expectations and opportunities for partners, how policy and public engagement will shape implementation
• Targeted revisions to the service network map (based on current planning, Vision 2050, RapidRide assessment, equity gap analysis)
• Updates to acknowledge COVID-19, reflect Metro becoming a mobility agency
Metro Connects Network Map Updates

1. Update implementation timelines and known changes
   1. 2025 → “interim”
   2. 2040 → 2050

2. Identify equity gaps

3. Evaluate RapidRide Network
“Attaining the Vision” Section Updates

- **Currently describes** costs and partnership opportunities with cities and communities, including through “Metro Connects Development Program” (rolling 6-year interim plan)

- **Metro will update the “Attaining the Vision” section to:**
  - Clarify how Metro will collaborate with and communicate to partners and community
  - Describe how policy will guide Metro in making service and capital investments
  - Update financial costs and clarify how partners can support the vision
  - Incorporate mobility framework recommendations

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**How we would attain the vision**

Metro can’t achieve the METRO CONNECTS vision all at once, and we can’t do it alone.

Collaboration, partnerships, and incremental change over time will be the keys to getting there.
Next Steps
Engagement Plan

Complete - Summer-Fall 2020:

• Stakeholder workshops
  o feedback summarized and shared with Equity Cabinet and RTC
  o Metro drafts updates based on stakeholder, Equity Cabinet and RTC input
• Regular Equity Cabinet and RTC briefings (sometimes joint with Mobility & Environment Committee)

Winter –Spring 2021

• Follow up stakeholder workshops
  o Show how input was used to create draft updates
  o Gather feedback that will be shared with Equity Cabinet, RTC, and Mobility & Environment to shape the final updates
• Regular Equity Cabinet, RTC, and Mobility & Environment meetings/briefings

July 2021

• Metro and King County Executive transmit updated policies for King County Council review
Closing and Questions