



Signature Report

July 29, 2003

Ordinance 14734

Proposed No. 2003-0334.2

Sponsors Pelz

1 AN ORDINANCE revising the process for considering
2 citizen-initiated road closure requests, establishing the
3 procedures for determining road reopening requests,
4 establishing the procedures for public outreach and
5 notification; making technical corrections; amending
6 Ordinance 10962, Sections 1 and 6, as amended, and
7 K.C.C. 14.38.010 and Ordinance 10962, Sections 3 and 4,
8 as amended, and K.C.C. 14.38.030 and adding new sections
9 to K.C.C. chapter 14.38.

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12 BE IT ORDAINED BY THE COUNCIL OF KING COUNTY:

13 SECTION 1. Ordinance 10962, Sections 1 and 6, as amended, and K.C.C.

14 14.38.010 are each hereby amended to read as follows:

15 **Authority.** The department of transportation shall be responsible for receiving
16 and processing all road closure and reopening petitions, and for recommending to the
17 council whether or not the roads identified in the petition should be closed or reopened.

18 The authority to make and issue ~~((said))~~ the recommendations shall be vested in the
19 director, department of transportation. Nothing in this chapter shall be construed to
20 abrogate or abridge the powers of the county road engineer or the council to temporarily
21 or permanently close or open county roads, as may be authorized by law.

22 SECTION 2. Ordinance 10962, Sections 2 and 5, as amended, and K.C.C.
23 14.38.020 are each hereby amended to read as follows:

24 **Petitions for closure.**

25 A. Petitions to close King County roads shall be filed with the director,
26 department of transportation.

27 B. ~~((Said))~~The petitions shall include: the names, signatures and legal addresses
28 of the persons filing the petition; the location of the roads or streets ~~((which))~~ that the
29 petitioners wish to have closed, including the intersections delineating the boundaries of
30 the road or street sections to be closed; a map depicting the road or street sections
31 requested to be closed; and the reasons for petitioning for closure of the street or road.
32 Other information or documents as the petitioners deem pertinent may be included.
33 Petitions for road closures shall include the names and signatures of at least a simple
34 majority of the owners of property residing along the section~~((s))~~ or sections of road
35 being petitioned for closure and the signatures of at least ten percent of the owners of
36 property being served by arterial roads and neighborhood collector streets to which traffic
37 would be diverted within a distance of ~~((660))~~ six hundred sixty feet with a minimum of
38 twenty parcel owners or one thousand five hundred feet from the road section petitioned
39 for closure.

40 C. Reasons for petitioning the county for the closure of a road shall be limited to
41 safety hazards posed to pedestrians, contiguous real property((;)) and/or traffic such as,
42 but not limited to, traffic speeds, volume, access or types of vehicles using the road or
43 street, the adequacy of road signage((;)) and road design considerations.

44 D. Petitioners shall submit whatever quantitative or other analyses they may
45 possess in support of their petition, such as traffic volumes or counts, or numbers of
46 accidents ((which)) or incidents that have occurred on the road or street petitioned to be
47 closed.

48 E. The director may consider a request for road closure ((which)) that is not in
49 conformance with the petition provisions of this chapter from any person. The decision
50 of the director on such a request shall not be subject to ((the provisions of)) K.C.C.
51 14.38.030.

52 NEW SECTION. SECTION 3. There is hereby added to K.C.C. chapter 14.38 a
53 new section to read as follows:

54 **Petitions for reopening.**

55 A. Petitions to reopen King County roads shall be filed with the director,
56 department of transportation.

57 B. The petitions shall include: the names, signatures and legal addresses of the
58 persons filing the petition; the location of the roads or streets which the petitioners wish
59 to have reopened, including the intersections delineating the boundaries of the road or
60 street sections to be reopened; a map depicting the road or street sections requested to be
61 reopened; and the reasons for petitioning for reopening of the street or road. Other
62 information or documents as the petitioners deem pertinent may be included. Petitions

63 for road reopenings shall include the names and signatures of at least a simple majority of
64 the owners of property residing along the section or sections of road being petitioned for
65 reopening and the signatures of at least ten percent of the owners of property being
66 served by arterial roads and neighborhood collector streets to which traffic has been
67 diverted within a distance of six hundred sixty feet with a minimum of twenty parcel
68 owners or one thousand five hundred feet from the road section petitioned for reopening.

69 C. Reasons for petitioning the county for the reopening of a road shall be limited
70 to the removal or alleviation of safety hazards, continuity and/or efficiency of the
71 roadway system, neighborhood circulation, accessibility including emergency vehicles,
72 community livability or hardship, and maintenance and public safety.

73 D. Petitioners shall submit whatever quantitative or other analyses they may
74 possess in support of their petition, such as improved road design considerations,
75 installation of traffic calming devices, improved safety conditions for the road or street
76 that was the subject of the users' petition to be reopened, removal of hazards, continuity
77 and efficiency of the roadway system, neighborhood circulation, accessibility, including
78 emergency vehicles, community livability or hardship, maintenance and public safety.

79 E. The director may consider a request for road reopening which is not in
80 conformance with the petition provisions of this chapter from any person. The decision
81 of the director on such a request shall not be subject to K.C.C. 14.38.030.

82 SECTION 4. Ordinance 10962, Sections 3 and 4, as amended, and K.C.C.
83 14.38.030 are each hereby amended to read as follows:

84 **Determination.**

85 A. The director, department of transportation, shall do the following upon the
86 receipt of a petition for road closure or reopening:

87 1. Acknowledge in writing within ten calendar days the receipt of the petition;

88 2. Refer the petition to the county road engineer (~~for investigation,~~
89 ~~determination, and for the making of a recommendation on road closure to the director~~)
90 to review for completeness. If additional information is required to complete the petition,
91 a final response from the county road engineer may be delayed. In cases where the
92 petition requires extensive research and review, the county road engineer may, upon
93 notifying the petitioners before the expiration of the response period, extend the response
94 period for another thirty days;

95 3. Once the completed petition has been received, the county road engineer will
96 begin an investigation, determination and develop a recommendation on road closure or
97 reopening to the director. The county road engineer shall first consider alternative
98 measures designed, or recommended, to mitigate the specifically stated reasons for the
99 road closure or reopening petition;

100 4. The county road engineer shall hold a public meeting, as described in section
101 6 of this ordinance, for the purposes of providing opportunities for open discussion and
102 addressing public comment, within ninety days of the completed petition submittal.

103 B. The county road engineer's recommendation shall be submitted to the director
104 in writing no later than (~~sixty~~) ninety days after the receipt of the completed petition.

105 C. The director shall provide his or her written recommendation to the petitioners
106 within ten days of the receipt of the county road engineer's recommendation on the road
107 closure or reopening petition. (~~Said~~) The notification shall also indicate the process for

108 council consideration of the director's recommendation on a petition to close or reopen a
109 county road.

110 D. The director may:

111 1. Oppose the petition for road closure or reopening with basis for the
112 ~~((closure))~~ opposition;

113 2. Identify alternative measures to address the issues cited in the petition for the
114 area defined by the road closure or reopening petition; or

115 3. Determine that the portion of the road specified in the petition should be:

116 a. fully closed or reopened;

117 b. closed or reopened to through traffic only;

118 c. open to emergency vehicles only;

119 d. closed or reopened in one direction only;

120 e. closed or reopened to certain types of vehicles; or

121 f. closed or reopened in one of the ways specified for an identified and limited
122 ~~((period of))~~ time.

123 E. The recommendation of the director to close or reopen a county road shall be
124 forwarded to the council for consideration and adoption by ordinance.

125 F. The recommendation of the director to reject a petition to close or reopen a
126 county road shall be conveyed by letter to the council ~~((which))~~ that reserves the option,
127 following ~~((such))~~ the notification, of closing or reopening all or a portion of the road that
128 is the subject of the petition.

129 NEW SECTION. SECTION 5. There is hereby added to K.C.C. chapter 14.38 a
130 new section to read as follows:

131 **Public notice.**

132 A. A notice of consideration by the county for road closure and reopening
133 requests shall be provided by the department of transportation and placed in an area
134 pertinent to the affected community.

135 B. All required notice of proposed actions shall contain the following
136 information:

137 1. The description of the requested action and the proposed change to the
138 function of the road in question;

139 2. A vicinity map and general location description in nontechnical terms;

140 3. The procedures and deadlines for filing comments;

141 4. The time, place and content of a public meeting; and

142 5. Identification of the responsible county official or officials.

143 C. A notice shall consist of one or more notice boards to be posted by the
144 department of transportation as follows.

145 1. Placed in an area pertinent to the affected community

146 2. Placed for maximum visibility by drivers and pedestrians

147 3. Maintained in good condition during the notice period;

148 4. In place within twenty days of receiving the completed petition; and

149 5. Removed within fifteen days after the public meeting.

150 D. The department may provide additional notice or may expand the area of
151 notice to inform the affected community of a proposed action.

152 NEW SECTION. SECTION 6. There is hereby added to K.C.C. chapter 14.38 a
153 new section to read as follows:

154 **Public meeting.**

155 A. The department shall hold a public meeting to obtain comments from the
156 public or other agencies on a requested action for road closure or reopening. For the
157 purpose of this section “public meeting” means an informal meeting, workshop or other
158 public gathering of people for the purpose of obtaining public comments from interested
159 citizens and other agencies, and providing opportunities for open discussion. A public
160 meeting associated with the review of the requested action shall provide a means for the
161 public to submit comments. A record of each public meeting should be maintained to
162 include documentation of attendance, record of any mailed notice and a summary of
163 public comments.

164 B. Notice of the time, place and purpose of a public meeting for the department
165 to consider a requested change to the status of a road shall, at a minimum, include a
166 notice board installed in accordance with the provisions of Section 5 of this chapter. The
167 department shall endeavor to provide the notice in nontechnical language. The notice
168 shall indicate how the detailed description of the requested action can be obtained by a
169 member of the public.

170 C. The department shall provide mechanisms to enable public access to
171 additional information. The department shall make available to the public printed and
172 electronic information of the range of options under consideration by the county. The

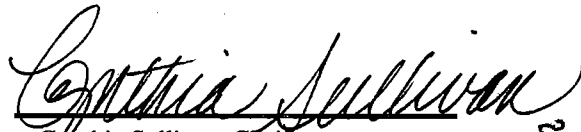
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173 department shall provide records of all petitions, requests and related background
174 information during normal business hours.
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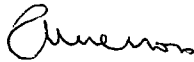
Ordinance 14734 was introduced on 7/21/2003 and passed by the Metropolitan King County Council on 7/28/2003, by the following vote:

Yes: 13 - Ms. Sullivan, Ms. Edmonds, Mr. von Reichbauer, Ms. Lambert, Mr. Phillips, Mr. Pelz, Mr. McKenna, Mr. Constantine, Mr. Hammond, Mr. Gossett, Ms. Hague, Mr. Irons and Ms. Patterson
No: 0
Excused: 0

KING COUNTY COUNCIL
KING COUNTY, WASHINGTON

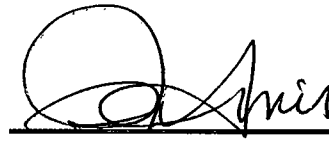

Cynthia Sullivan, Chair

ATTEST:



Anne Noris, Clerk of the Council

APPROVED this 7 day of August, 2003.



Ron Sims, County Executive

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Attachments None