



**KING COUNTY**

1200 King County Courthouse  
516 Third Avenue  
Seattle, WA 98104

**Signature Report**

**April 2, 2012**

**Ordinance 17295**

**Proposed No. 2011-0458.2**

**Sponsors Phillips, Hague and Lambert**

1 AN ORDINANCE relating to public transportation;  
2 proposing a two-year congestion reduction transit  
3 incentives program; and amending Ordinance 12643,  
4 Section 18, and K.C.C. 4.150.610, Ordinance 12643,  
5 Section 19, as amended, and K.C.C. 4.150.210, Ordinance  
6 12643, Section 18, as amended, and K.C.C. 4.150.610 and  
7 Ordinance 12643, Section 19, as amended, and K.C.C.  
8 4.150.210.

9 **STATEMENT OF FACTS:**

10 1. In August 2011, the King County council approved Ordinance 17169,  
11 providing for a temporary two-year congestion reduction charge of twenty  
12 dollars on vehicle registration renewals to allow the transit division  
13 ("Metro Transit") to continue to provide the current level of transit service  
14 that helps reduce congestion and the corresponding burdens placed on  
15 local roads and highways. Proceeds from the charge will reduce  
16 congestion by enabling Metro Transit to maintain service at current levels  
17 and to get people to jobs as the region's economy continues to recover.  
18 2. Ordinance 17169 requested the executive to develop a two-year  
19 congestion reduction transit incentives program to begin when a

20 congestion reduction charge is first imposed, and to submit an ordinance  
21 to the council by November 1, 2011, proposing the program.

22 3. In accordance with K.C.C. 4.150.610, Metro Transit has previously  
23 provided free or discounted fare media for the purpose of attracting new  
24 ridership, relieving congestion, developing market strategies, testing prices  
25 or experimental service and implementing other special transit programs  
26 or promotions. The distribution of free-ride tickets has been shown to  
27 change the behavior of people making trips within the county,  
28 encouraging long-term transit use and increasing the demand for transit  
29 services over time.

30 4. In accordance with K.C.C. 4.150.210, Metro Transit also provides  
31 deeply discounted tickets to human service agencies for distribution to  
32 their clients to provide access to important human services.

33 BE IT ORDAINED BY THE COUNCIL OF KING COUNTY:

34 SECTION 1. A. The director of the department of transportation shall implement  
35 a two-year congestion reduction transit incentives program.

36 B. The transit incentives program shall offer King County vehicle owners, as part  
37 of the annual vehicle registration renewal, transit ridership incentives in the form of free-  
38 ride tickets. Each household in the county that has a vehicle owner who pays the annual  
39 vehicle registration renewal fee shall be eligible for eight free-ride tickets valid for a  
40 maximum of four months for use on regular transit division service during each twelve-  
41 month period for which a congestion reduction charge is applied. Only households with

42 valid addresses within the county are eligible. Post office boxes shall not be considered  
43 valid addresses.

44 C. As an alternative to receiving eight free-ride tickets, each eligible household  
45 may instead choose to apply the value of the free-ride tickets towards the transit  
46 division's human services ticket program for the purpose of meeting the transportation  
47 needs of low income and homeless populations as provided for in K.C.C. 4.150.210. For  
48 each household selecting this option, the value to be applied to the human services ticket  
49 program shall be deemed to be equal to eight times the Metro subsidy of the average fare  
50 of human services tickets distributed pursuant to KCC 4.150.210 the previous year.

51 D. This congestion reduction transit incentive program shall run concurrently  
52 with the collection of the twenty-dollar congestion reduction charge as provided in  
53 Ordinance 17169.

54 SECTION 2. Ordinance 12643, Section 18, and K.C.C. 4150.610 are each hereby  
55 amended to read as follows:

56 For the purpose of attracting new ridership, relieving congestion, developing  
57 market strategies, testing prices or experimental service, and implementing other special  
58 transit programs or promotions, the director may waive or discount the fare or pass prices  
59 otherwise established in this chapter whenever ~~((such))~~ the waiver or discount is not  
60 expected to require the addition of regularly scheduled public transportation services and,  
61 in the judgment of the director, the value of the program or promotion and the benefit to  
62 the public exceeds the expected loss of revenue. The loss in revenue of all such  
63 programs, promotions and fare discounts shall, in the aggregate, be no greater than  
64 ~~(((\$350,000))~~ three hundred fifty thousand dollars, plus the value of tickets provided to

65 eligible households through the congestion reduction transit incentives program described  
66 in section 1 of this ordinance, annually.

67 SECTION 3. Ordinance 12643, Section 19, as amended, and K.C.C. 4.150.210  
68 are each hereby amended to read as follows:

69 The director is authorized to establish a program for the sale and distribution of  
70 tickets to human service agencies at twenty percent of their cash value for the purpose of  
71 meeting the transportation needs of low income and homeless populations. The total  
72 amount of the eighty percent discount provided under the program shall not exceed one  
73 million eight hundred seventy-five thousand dollars for any one year. However, the  
74 amount of the eighty percent discount may be increased by up to an additional two  
75 hundred thousand dollars annually under this human services ticket program for the value  
76 of tickets applied to it through the congestion reduction transit incentives program  
77 described in section 1 of this ordinance. The allocation of discount tickets under the  
78 program shall be made by the director in conjunction with local jurisdictions and the  
79 county's department or departments responsible for human services programs. The local  
80 jurisdictions and the county department or departments shall determine the number of  
81 tickets from their respective allocations (~~which~~) that shall be sold to the human service  
82 agencies eligible under the program. Tickets sold under the program are valid on all  
83 public transportation and paratransit service.

84 SECTION 4. Section 5 of this ordinance takes effect January 1, 2015.

85 SECTION 5. Ordinance 12643, Section 18, as amended, and K.C.C. 4.150.610  
86 are each hereby amended to read as follows:

87        For the purpose of attracting new ridership, relieving congestion, developing  
88        market strategies, testing prices or experimental service, and implementing other special  
89        transit programs or promotions, the director may waive or discount the fare or pass prices  
90        otherwise established in this chapter whenever the waiver or discount is not expected to  
91        require the addition of regularly scheduled public transportation services and, in the  
92        judgment of the director, the value of the program or promotion and the benefit to the  
93        public exceeds the expected loss of revenue. The loss in revenue of all such programs,  
94        promotions and fare discounts shall, in the aggregate, be no greater than three hundred  
95        fifty thousand dollars ~~((plus the value of tickets provided to households through the  
96        congestion reduction transit incentives program described in section 1 of this ordinance,))~~  
97        annually.

98        SECTION 6. Ordinance 12643, Section 19, as amended, and K.C.C. 4.150.210  
99        are each hereby amended to read as follows:

100        The director is authorized to establish a program for the sale and distribution of  
101        tickets to human service agencies at twenty percent of their cash value for the purpose of  
102        meeting the transportation needs of low income and homeless populations. The total  
103        amount of the eighty percent discount provided under the program shall not exceed one  
104        million eight hundred seventy-five thousand dollars for any one year. ~~((However, the  
105        amount of the eighty percent discount may be increased by up to an additional two  
106        hundred thousand dollars annually under this human services ticket program for the value  
107        of tickets applied to it through the congestion reduction transit incentives program  
108        described in section 1 of this ordinance.))~~ The allocation of discount tickets under the  
109        program shall be made by the director in conjunction with local jurisdictions and the

110 county's department or departments responsible for human services programs. The local  
111 jurisdictions and the county department or departments shall determine the number of  
112 tickets from their respective allocations that shall be sold to the human service agencies  
113 eligible under the program. Tickets sold under the program are valid on all public  
114 transportation and paratransit service.

115            SECTION 7. Section 6 of this ordinance takes effect January 1, 2015. However,  
116 if the value of the free-ride tickets applied to the human services ticket program through  
117 the congestion reduction transit incentives program has not been exhausted and the  
118 executive provides notice to that effect to the council by December 31 of each year after  
119 January 1, 2015, the effective date of section 6 of this ordinance shall be extended in one-

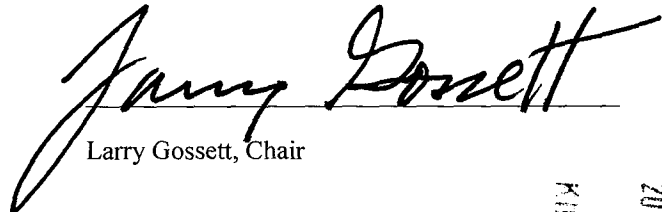
120 year increments. However, in no event shall the effective date of section 6 of this  
121 ordinance be extended beyond January 1, 2020.

122


Ordinance 17295 was introduced on 11/7/2011 and passed by the Metropolitan King  
County Council on 4/2/2012, by the following vote:

Yes: 9 - Mr. Phillips, Mr. von Reichbauer, Mr. Gossett, Ms. Hague,  
Ms. Patterson, Ms. Lambert, Mr. Ferguson, Mr. Dunn and Mr.  
McDermott  
No: 0  
Excused: 0

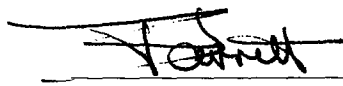
KING COUNTY COUNCIL  
KING COUNTY, WASHINGTON

  
Larry Gossett, Chair

ATTEST:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Anne Noris, Clerk of the Council

APPROVED this 13 day of April, 2012.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Dow Constantine, County Executive

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KING COUNTY COUNCIL CLERK

Attachments: None