



KING COUNTY

1200 King County Courthouse
516 Third Avenue
Seattle, WA 98104

Signature Report

Ordinance 19206

Proposed No. 2020-0382.1

Sponsors Dembowski

1 AN ORDINANCE relating to public transportation;
 2 suspending the general financial practices and farebox
 3 recovery ratio sections of the 2016 Fund Management
 4 Policies for the Public Transportation Fund during the
 5 2021-2022 biennium.

6 BE IT ORDAINED BY THE COUNCIL OF KING COUNTY:

7 **SECTION 1. Findings:**

8 A. Adopted transit fund management policies provide a framework to ensure the
 9 financial health and viability of the public transportation fund.

10 B. In July 2016, following recommendations from a staff work group and review
 11 by a special committee on transit, the 2016 Fund Management Policies for the Public
 12 Transportation Fund were adopted through Ordinance 18321.

13 C. The 2016 Fund Management Policies for the Public Transportation Fund set
 14 general financial practices and a fund structure for the Public Transportation Fund, as
 15 well as policies and targets for financial and capital planning, expenditures, revenues and
 16 reserves.

17 D. King County government has experienced significant operational and fiscal
 18 impacts during 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic and anticipates continued impacts
 19 during the 2021-2022 biennium.

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20 E. On March 1, 2020, the executive issued a proclamation of emergency enabling
21 extraordinary measures to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic. On March 3, 2020, the
22 council passed Motion 15610, affirming the proclamation of emergency.

23 F. On May 29, 2020, the executive issued a proclamation declaring an emergency
24 budget crisis for the remainder of the 2019-2020 biennium budget cycle. The
25 proclamation was ratified through Ordinance 19115.

26 G. On September 16, 2020, the executive issued a proclamation declaring an
27 emergency budget crisis for the 2021-2022 biennium budget cycle. The proclamation
28 was ratified through Ordinance XXXX (Proposed Ordinance 2020-0323).

29 H. The Metro transit department has made a number of operational changes in
30 response to the COVID-19 pandemic to respond to lower ridership and to ensure the
31 health and safety of employees and passengers, including reductions or suspension of
32 service on many routes, the suspension of fares from March 21, 2020, to October 1, 2020,
33 limits on the number of passengers allowed on each coach, a requirement that operators
34 and passengers wear masks while on board and additional sanitization procedures for
35 coaches.

36 I. As a result of lower sales tax and farebox revenues during the COVID-19
37 pandemic, the Metro transit department projects that it will receive a total of three
38 hundred forty-nine million dollars less during the 2021-2022 biennium than had been
39 anticipated prior to the pandemic.

40 J. As a result of projected lower farebox revenues, the Metro transit department
41 director informed the council on September 29, 2020, that, during the 2021-2022
42 biennium, the Metro transit department anticipates that it will not meet either the farebox

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43 recovery target of thirty percent of passenger related operating costs or the farebox
44 recovery ratio of at least twenty-five percent of passenger related operating costs set by
45 the 2016 Fund Management Policies for the Public Transportation Fund, anticipating
46 actual farebox recovery ratios of fifteen percent in 2021 and eighteen percent in 2022.

47 K. The executive proposed 2021-2022 biennial budget proposes that, in response
48 to lower sales tax and farebox revenues, the Metro transit department will continue to
49 suspend or reduce some portions of the current transit system during 2021 and 2022,
50 while also implementing new initiatives to address pandemic-related changes in ridership
51 patterns and priorities identified by the King County Metro Service Guidelines or
52 METRO CONNECTS.

53 L. Because of the fiscal impacts incurred due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the
54 Metro transit department will not be able to comply with the general financial practices
55 and farebox recovery ratio sections of the 2016 Fund Management Policies for the Public
56 Transportation Fund during the 2021-2022 biennium.

57 SECTION 2. During the 2021-2022 biennium, the sections of the 2016 Fund
58 Management Policies relating to general financial practices, in Section I.A., and farebox
59 recovery ratio, in Section III.A., are suspended.

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60 SECTION 3. All other sections of the 2016 Fund Management Policies for the
61 Public Transportation Fund remain in effect.
62

Ordinance 19206 was introduced on 10/27/2020 and passed by the Metropolitan King County Council on 11/17/2020, by the following vote:

Yes: 9 - Ms. Balducci, Mr. Dembowski, Mr. Dunn, Ms. Kohl-Welles, Ms. Lambert, Mr. McDermott, Mr. Upthegrove, Mr. von Reichbauer and Mr. Zahilay

KING COUNTY COUNCIL
KING COUNTY, WASHINGTON

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Claudia Balducci, Chair

ATTEST:

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Melani Pedroza
8DE1BB375AD3422...

Melani Pedroza, Clerk of the Council

APPROVED this _____ day of 11/30/2020, _____.

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Dow Constantine
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Dow Constantine, County Executive

Attachments: None

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