King County

Meeting Agenda

Regional Transit Committee

Councilmembers:
Teresa Mosqueda, Chair
Jorge Barón, Dave Upthegrove
Alternate:

Sound Cities Association:
Joseph Cimaomo, Jr., Covington, Vice Chair; Barb de Michelle, Issaquah; Susan Honda, Federal Way;
Karen Howe, Sammamish; Ryan McIrvin, Renton; Katherine Ross, Snoqualmie;
Toni Troutner, Kent; Janice Zahn, Bellevue

Alternates:
Neal Black, Kirkland; Paul Charbonneau, Newcastle;
JC Harris, Des Moines; Tarlochan Mann, Pacific

City of Seattle:
Joy Hollingsworth, Rob Saka
Alternate: Robert Kettle

Lead Staff: Mary Bourguignon (206-263-3296)
Committee Clerk: Marka Steadman (206-477-0887)

3:00 PM   **Wednesday, January 15, 2025**   **Hybrid Meeting**

Hybrid Meetings: Attend King County Council committee meetings in person in Council Chambers (Room 1001), 516 3rd Avenue in Seattle, or through remote access. Details on how to attend and/or provide comment remotely are listed below.

Pursuant to K.C.C. 1.24.035 A. and F., this meeting is also noticed as a meeting of the Metropolitan King County Council, whose agenda is limited to the committee business. In this meeting only the rules and procedures applicable to committees apply and not those applicable to full council meetings.

HOW TO PROVIDE PUBLIC COMMENT: The Regional Transit Committee values community input and looks forward to hearing from you on agenda items.

Sign language and interpreter services can be arranged given sufficient notice (206-848-0355).
TTY Number - TTY 711.
Council Chambers is equipped with a hearing loop, which provides a wireless signal that is picked up
by a hearing aid when it is set to 'T' (Telecoil) setting.

There are three ways to provide public comment:

1.   In person: You may attend the meeting and provide comment in the Council Chambers.

2.   By email: You may comment in writing on current agenda items by submitting your email comments to kcccomitt@kingcounty.gov. If your email is received by 1:00 p.m. on the day of the meeting, your email comments will be distributed to the committee members and appropriate staff prior to the meeting.

3.   Remote attendance at the meeting by phone or computer (see "Connecting to the Webinar" below).

You may provide oral comment on current agenda items during the meeting's public comment period. You are not required to sign up in advance. Comments are limited to current agenda items.

You have the right to language access services at no cost to you. To request these services, please contact Language Access Coordinator, Tera Chea at 206-477-9259 or email tera.chea2@kingcounty.gov by 8:00 a.m. three business days prior to the meeting.

CONNECTING TO THE WEBINAR:

Webinar ID: 824 1078 7866

By computer using the Zoom application at https://zoom.us/join and the webinar ID above.

Via phone by calling 1-253-215-8782 and using the webinar ID above.

HOW TO WATCH/LISTEN TO THE MEETING REMOTELY: There are several ways to watch or listen in to the meeting:

1)   Stream online via this link: http://www.kingcounty.gov/kctv, or input the link web address into your web browser.

2)   Watch King County TV on Comcast Channel 22 and 322(HD) and Astound Broadband Channels 22 and 711(HD)

3)   Listen to the meeting by telephone – See "Connecting to the Webinar" above.

To help us manage the meeting, if you do not wish to be called upon for public comment please use the Livestream or King County TV options listed above, if possible, to watch or listen to the meeting.

1.   **Call to Order**

> To show a PDF of the written materials for an agenda item, click on the agenda item below.

2.   **Roll Call**

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3.   <u>**Approval of Minutes**</u>

November 20, 2024 meeting **p. 4**

4.   <u>**Chair's Report**</u>

5.   <u>**Public Comment**</u>

6.   <u>**General Manager's Report**</u>

Briefing

7.   Briefing No. 2025-B0001 **p. 7**

RTC Overview - Roles and Responsibilities of RTC - Selection of Vice Chair

Mary Bourguignon, Council staff

8.   Briefing No. 2025-B0002 **p. 32**

RTC Work Plan Discussion

Mary Bourguignon, Council staff

Other Business

Adjournment

Sign language and interpreter services can be arranged given sufficient notice (206-848-0355).
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King County

Meeting Minutes

Regional Transit Committee

Councilmembers:
Teresa Mosqueda, Chair
Jorge Barón, Dave Upthegrove
Alternate:

Sound Cities Association:
Joseph Cimaomo Jr., Vice Chair; Covington; Barbara de Michele, Issaquah;
Susan Honda, Federal Way; Ryan McIrvin, Renton; Betsy Robertson, Shoreline;
Katherine Ross, Snoqualmie, Toni Troutner, Kent; Janice Zahn, Bellevue
Alternates: Neal Black, Kirkland; Paul Charbonneau, Newcastle;
JC Harris, Des Moines; Karen Howe, Sammamish

City of Seattle:
Joy Hollingsworth, Rob Saka
Alternate: Robert Kettle

Lead Staff: Mary Bourguignon (206-263-3296)
Committee Clerk: Marka Steadman (206-477-0887)

3:00 PM	Wednesday, November 20, 2024	Hybrid Meeting

DRAFT MINUTES

1. **Call to Order**

    Chair Mosqueda called the meeting to order at 3:03 p.m.

2. **Roll Call**

    Present: 12 - Cimaomo Jr., McIrvin, Ross, Troutner, Robertson, Zahn, Honda, Mosqueda, Barón, Hollingsworth, Saka and Black

    Excused: 2 - de Michele and Upthegrove

3. **Approval of Minutes**

    Vice Chair Cimaomo moved approval of the October 16, 2024, meeting minutes. There being no objections, the minutes were approved.

4. **Chair's Report**

    Chair Mosqueda expressed appreciation to members and staff who have contributed to RTC throughout the year, commented on the Washington Association of Counties' meeting, the County's 2025 budget and provided an overview of the meeting topics.

5. Public Comment

The following individual provided public comment: Alex Tsimerman

6. General Manager's Report

Michelle Allison, General Manager, Metro Transit Department, expressed appreciation to Metro staff working to bring the system back online after the recent storm event; commented on another successful recruitment of operators; cleanliness changes; use of polycarbonate instead of glass in Metro shelters; ridership numbers; the evaluation reports on the agenda and answered questions from the members.

Discussion and Possible Action

7. Proposed Motion No. 2024-0367

A MOTION relating to the King County Metro Transit Strategic Plan for Public Transportation 2021-2031 and King County Metro Transit Service Guidelines and accepting the King County Metro Transit 2024 System Evaluation.

Mary Bourguignon, Council staff, briefed the committee and answered questions from the members. Jacob Brett, Transportation Planner, Metro Transit Department, answered questions from the members.

Due to the design of the legislative tracking software used to produce the proceedings, the vote on this item is misreported. The correct vote is:

Votes: Yes: 10 – Barón, Black voting as an alternate for de Michele, Cimaomo, Hollingsworth, Honda, McIrvin, Mosqueda, Robertson, Ross, Saka, Troutner, and Zahn.

> *No: 0*
> *Excused: 2 – de Michele, Upthegrove*

A motion was made by Councilmember Cimaomo Jr. that this Motion be Recommended Do Pass. The motion carried by the following vote:

Yes: 9.5 - Cimaomo Jr., McIrvin, Ross, Troutner, Robertson, Zahn, Honda, Mosqueda, Barón, Hollingsworth, Saka and Black

Excused: 2.5 - de Michele and Upthegrove

Briefing

8. Briefing No. 2024-B0106

Metro Performance Measures Dashboard, 2024 Update

Sarah Margeson, Government Relations Administrator, Metro Transit Department, provided a PowerPoint presentation and answered questions from the members. Mary Bourguignon, Council staff, and Jacob Brett, Transportation Planner, Metro Transit Department, answered questions from the members.

This matter was Presented

Other Business

Chair Mosqueda noted that this is the last Regional Transit Committee of 2024.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 4:28 p.m.

Approved this _____ day of _____

_____

Clerk's Signature

![King County logo]

Metropolitan King County Council
Regional Transit Committee

STAFF REPORT

Agenda Item:	7	Name:	Mary Bourguignon
Proposed No.:	2025-B0001	**Date:**	January 15, 2025

SUBJECT

Today's briefing provides an overview of the role and responsibilities of the Regional Transit Committee (RTC), in preparation for members selecting a Vice Chair for 2025.

SUMMARY

This agenda item will provide an overview of the RTC's role, responsibilities, and membership, as well as an opportunity for RTC members who are not King County Councilmembers to select the RTC Vice Chair for 2025, as provided in the King County Charter.

BACKGROUND

Role and responsibilities of RTC. The King County Charter establishes three regional committees: the Regional Policy Committee (RPC), Regional Water Quality Committee (RWQC), and Regional Transit Committee (RTC).[1]

The Charter states that: "Each regional committee shall develop, propose, review and recommend action on ordinances and motions adopting, repealing, or amending transit, water quality or other regional countywide policies and plans within the subject matter area of the committee."[2] The King County Code further specifies that: "The chair of the council shall refer to the regional transit committee countywide policies and plans related to the transit services formerly provided by the municipality of metropolitan Seattle"[3] and goes on to describe the duties of the RTC as follows:

> The regional transit committee shall develop, review and recommend countywide policies and plans related to the transportation services formerly provided by the municipality of metropolitan Seattle. Plans and policies that must be assigned to the committee include, but are not limited to, the long-range transit system and capital improvement plans, service design, development and allocation policies, financial policies, fare

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[1] King County Charter §270
[2] King County Charter §270.30
[3] KCC 1.24.065.D.1.a (Rule 7)

policies, facility siting policy and major facilities siting process, and review and comment upon Regional Transit Authority plans.[4]

The King County Charter and Code provide additional details on logistics and timelines for coordination between the RTC and Council on transit-related countywide policies and plans that are referred to the RTC for consideration.

The RTC and Council followed these procedures during 2021 as the RTC and Council deliberated on, amended, and then adopted updates to Metro's three adopted policy documents: the Strategic Plan for Public Transportation, King County Metro Service Guidelines, and Metro Connects long-range plan.[5]

RTC membership and voting. The King County Charter states that, for regional committees:

"Each committee shall have a chair and a vice-chair with authority as specified by ordinance. The chair shall be a county councilmember appointed by the chair of the county council. The vice-chair shall be appointed by majority vote of those committee members who are not county councilmembers, in accordance with voting rights that are apportioned as provided in this section."[6]

The charter further states that each regional committee shall consist of nine voting members, with membership and voting rights provided as follows:

> Three members shall be metropolitan county councilmembers appointed by the chair of the council, and shall include councilmembers from districts with unincorporated residents. Each county councilmember vote shall be weighted as two votes. The remaining six members of each committee except the water quality committee shall be local elected city officials appointed from and in proportion to the relative populations of: (i) the city with the largest population in the county and (ii) the other cities and towns in the county. Committee members from the city with the largest population in the county shall be appointed by the legislative authority of that city. Committee members from the other cities and towns in the county shall be appointed in a manner agreed to by and among those cities and towns representing a majority of the populations of such cities and towns, provided, however, that such cities and towns may appoint two representatives for each allocated committee membership, each with fractional (1/2) voting rights.[7]

In practice, with nine voting members and 12 votes total for the committee, voting and membership in the RTC occur as follows:

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[4] Rule 7 (KCC 1.24.065.K.2)
[5] Ordinance 19367
[6] King County Charter Section 270.20 Composition of regional committees
[7] King County Charter Section 270.20 Composition of regional committees

Caucus	Members	Votes Each	Total Votes
King County	3	2	**6**
Seattle	2	1	**2**
Sound Cities Assn	8*	1/2	**4**

*Note: "Other cities and towns" (represented by the Sound Cities Association, SCA) have four voting members (and four votes) on the RTC. The SCA has chosen to allocate those votes among eight people, with each person casting ½ vote.

RTC Vice Chair. Selection of the Vice Chair has traditionally used a process that was developed following a 2008 Charter amendment that made changes to the membership and composition of the regional committees.[8] Specifically, the process has been that:

- The vote for Vice Chair occurs in a committee meeting;
- Each City of Seattle RTC member's vote counts as one, and each SCA RTC member's vote counts as one-half;
- The vote need not be by written motion, but can be handled as an oral motion;
- A roll call or voice vote is taken on the motion;
- With the voting structure in place, a minimum of 3.5 votes is needed to elect a Vice Chair; and
- If there are several nominees, consecutive votes can be taken until a majority of the eligible members vote for a nominee.

Individual caucuses are encouraged to discuss their nominees and potentially confer with other caucuses, though must do so in compliance with the Open Public Meetings Act.[9]

For reference, please find below the Council rules regarding regional committee Chairs and Vice Chairs:[10]

K.C.C. 1.24.065.B.

    3. Powers and duties of the chair. The chair of the committee has the following powers and duties:

    a. The chair shall:
    (1) call the committee to order at the hour appointed for meeting and, if a quorum is present, shall cause the minutes of the previous meeting to be approved;
    (2) proceed with the order of business; and
    (3) adjourn the committee upon a motion to adjourn approved by a majority of members present;

    b. The chair shall preserve order and decorum and in the interest of efficiency may impose time and subject matter limits for testimony and comment given by the public and members of the committee;

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[8] Ordinance 16205 placed the Charter change amendment on the ballot
[9] RCW 42.30
[10] Council Rule 7, K.C.C. 1.24.065.B.3-5

c. The chair shall promote efficient operation of the committee. The chair's act of adding to, removing from or taking out of order an item on a distributed and posted agenda may be appealed to the full body by members whose cumulative voting power is at least two votes. The chair shall discourage activities that are dilatory or disruptive. The chair shall endeavor to facilitate the will of the majority of members present at all times;

d. The chair may speak to points of order, inquiry or information in preference to other members. Upon a ruling of the chair on a point of order, the chair shall allow any members whose cumulative voting power is at least two votes to immediately request that the decision be placed before the body. If a majority of votes present agrees to the ruling of the chair, the business of the committee must proceed without further debate. If a majority of the votes present does not support the ruling of the chair, the chair shall immediately allow a procedural motion to dispense with the issue in question, proceeding until a decision of the committee is secured and the business of the committee is allowed to proceed; and

e. The chair shall provide electronic copies to all committee members of all official communications and requests for committee action addressed to the chair.

4. Powers and duties of the vice-chair.

a. There shall be one vice-chair of each committee.

b. At committee meetings, the vice-chair shall exercise the duties, powers, and prerogatives of the committee chair in the chair's absence.

5. Chair actions, vice-chair consultation.

a. The chair shall consult with the vice-chair in:
(1) developing a draft work program for consideration by the full committee;
(2) setting a schedule for carrying out the committee's work program; and
(3) cancelling or changing the date, time, or place of committee meeting.

b. If the vice-chair disagrees with a chair's proposed decision regarding the matters under subsection B.5.a. of this rule, the chair shall not take unilateral action and shall refer the matters to the full committee.

C. Quorum, notice, and voting. Members representing six and one-half votes constitute a quorum of a regional committee. In the absence of a quorum, the committee may perform all committee functions except for voting on legislation or a work program. Notice of all regular and special meetings must be provided as specified in the Open Public Meetings Act of 1971, chapter 42.30 RCW, and notice must be given to members of the committees, including members who at any time during the calendar year have served on the committee or have been designated by their appointing authority to receive notice. All recommendations of a regional committee on council-referred ordinances or motions must be approved by a majority of the members present and voting, with no fewer than three and one-half affirmative votes. For each piece of legislation voted on in committee, the committee clerk shall prepare vote roll call form that shall record the recommendation of the committee, and shall include the type and number of the legislation, the version of the legislation, number of the "ayes" and "nos" and the names of the members voting for

and against, as well as the names of the members excused. Each vote roll call form must be preserved as prescribed by the clerk of the council. There may not be voting by proxy.

D.1.a. Referral to the regional transit committee. The chair of the council shall refer to the regional transit committee countywide policies and plans related to the transit services formerly provided by the municipality of metropolitan Seattle. If a standing committee of the council is considering an issue that, upon the standing committee's subsequent review, the standing committee believes should be considered as a countywide policy or plan related to transit, then the standing committee shall so inform the chair of the council. The chair of the council may then determine whether the policy or plan is to be referred to a regional committee.

Metro policy documents. The Charter gives the RTC responsibility to "develop, propose, review and recommend action on ordinances and motions adopting, repealing, or amending transit… countywide policies and plans…"[11] In Metro's case, those "countywide policies and plans" are three policy documents that the RTC and King County Council last updated in 2021:[12]

- **The Strategic Plan for Public Transportation** outlines Metro's goals, strategies, and performance measures.

- **The King County Metro Service Guidelines** guide day-to-day delivery of transit service by providing criteria to develop, modify, and evaluate transit service.

- **Metro Connects,** Metro's long-range plan, envisions the transit network at two points in the future, an Interim Network[13] (late-2030s) and a 2050 Network.

The Strategic Plan for Public Transportation, 2021-2031, outlines Metro's goals, the strategies to achieve those goals, and the measures Metro uses to determine if it is succeeding. The Strategic Plan has 10 goals:

1. **Investments.** Invest upstream and where needs are greatest
2. **Sustainability.** Address the climate crisis and environmental justice
3. **Innovation.** Innovate to improve mobility, complement transit, and advance equity and sustainability
4. **Safety.** Keep passengers, employees, and communities safe
5. **Transit-Oriented Communities.** Support thriving, equitable, transit-oriented communities that foster economic development
6. **Access.** Improve access to mobility options
7. **Service Quality.** Provide fast, reliable, and integrated mobility services
8. **Workforce.** Partner with employees, unions, contractors, and communities to offer high-skill, high-wage careers that support a high quality of life
9. **Stewardship.** Be responsible stewards of financial resources and invest in line with values and goals
10. **Engagement.** Conduct deliberate and transparent community engagement

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[11] King County Charter §270.30
[12] Ordinance 19367
[13] The Interim Network is envisioned for when the West Seattle and Ballard Link light rail extensions are completed. For costing purposes when Metro Connects was developed, it was estimated at 2035.

The Strategic Plan identifies strategies and performance measures for each goal. Performance measures will be tracked through an [online dashboard](#), which is currently being developed. Metro must provide an oral report on this dashboard each year to the RTC and the Council.

The Service Guidelines guide the day-to-day operations of the transit system through criteria to <u>develop</u>, <u>modify</u>, and <u>evaluate</u> transit service.

- **Developing transit service** is guided by a set of criteria to plan, space, and organize fixed-route and flexible services.

- **Modifying transit service** is guided by criteria and priorities for service investments, reductions, and restructures.
    - **Service investments** are based on three priorities:
        - **Priority 1: Reduce Crowding** by adding service to overcrowded routes
        - **Priority 2: Improve Reliability** by adding service to routes that run late
        - **Priority 3: Grow Service** by filling the gap between existing service and target service levels using three factors: equity, land use, and geographic value
    - **Service reductions,** when needed, are based on productivity and equity, with the least productive and lowest-equity-score routes prioritized for reduction.
    - **Service restructures** change transit service in a geographic area when there is change to the transportation network (such as a new Link light rail line) or when there are development or land use changes. Service restructures are based on goals developed with the community.

- **Evaluating transit service** is accomplished through the annual System Evaluation report, which is transmitted to the RTC and Council each October. The System Evaluation identifies target service levels and investment needs and reports ridership, productivity, passenger load, reliability, and equity metrics for each route.

Metro Connects is Metro's vision for the future. It outlines an expanded service network to be developed through an **Interim Network** (by the mid-to-late 2030s, to synchronize with Sound Transit expansion) and a **2050 Network.**

By 2050, Metro Connects envisions a transit system with:
- 7 million annual service hours, up from 4 million in 2019
- 200 million annual riders, up from 121 million in 2019
- 19-23 RapidRide lines, up from 6 in 2019
- $28.3 billion in associated capital improvements

Metro Connects is not fully funded, so additional regional funding will be needed to achieve the long-range vision.

To track progress toward implementing Metro Connects, the RTC and Council required Metro to transmit ongoing reports, including:

- **Metro Connects Implementation Report,** due by May 5, 2022, to describe the funding needed to implement Metro Connects, the funding gap, and potential funding sources to fill the gap[14]

- **RapidRide Prioritization Plan,** due by June 30, 2024, to describe the RapidRide candidate lines to be implemented, organized by tier, with a description of the priority level for each[15]

- **An update on the status of RapidRide implementation** to be included in each year's System Evaluation report[16]

- **Metro Connects performance measures** to be included in the Strategic Plan's performance measures dashboard[17]

ATTACHMENTS

1. RTC Roles and Responsibilities presentation
2. Overview of Metro policy documents

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[14] Motion 16155
[15] Motion 16659
[16] The 2024 System Evaluation report is Proposed Motion 2024-0367
[17] Metro Strategic Plan Dashboard (link)

METRO OVERVIEW

- Region's largest public transportation agency
- Metro operates:
  - Fixed-route bus service, paratransit, vanpool, water taxi, Dial-A-Ride-Transit, flexible transit services
  - Link light rail and ST Express bus (under contract to Sound Transit)
  - Seattle Streetcar (under contract to City of Seattle)
- $3.1 billion biennial budget (operating & capital)
- Pre-pandemic, 4 million service hours, 120 million riders (~500,000 weekday boardings)
- Today, providing approximately 300,000 weekday boardings

METRO GOVERNANCE

- Independent government, Municipality of Metropolitan Seattle (Metro) created in 1950s for wastewater treatment

- Metro Transit began in 1973 as part of Metro government

- Metro functions merged into King County in 1990s

- Voters changed King County's Charter to create regional committees to oversee the former Metro government functions

- Dual governance with King County Council

RTC ROLE

- Regional committees established in King County Charter (§270)
  - Regional Policy Committee (RPC)
  - Regional Water Quality Committee (RWQC)
  - Regional Transit Committee (RTC)
- RTC role:

"…develop, propose, review and recommend action on ordinances and motions adopting, repealing, or amending transit… countywide policies and plans…" (King County Charter §270.30)

RTC MEMBERSHIP

9 voting members – 12 votes total

DELEGATION	MEMBERS	VOTES EACH	TOTAL VOTES
King County	3	2	**6**
Seattle	2	1	**2**
SCA	8*	1/2	**4**

*Note: "Other cities and towns" (represented by SCA) have 4 voting members (and 4 votes) on the RTC. The SCA has chosen to allocate those votes among 8 people, with each person casting ½ vote. (King County Code 1.24.065.B.1.a, Rule 7)

Chair is a King County Councilmember, chosen by the Council
Vice Chair is a non-County member, elected by non-County RTC members

METRO OVERSIGHT

- **King County Council oversees:**
  - Metro's biennial budget and financial management
  - Metro's operations (including transit service changes)
- **Regional Transit Committee (RTC) <u>and</u> King County Council oversee:**
  - Development, adoption of Metro's "countywide policies and plans" (three adopted policy documents)
  - Monitoring the implementation of "countywide policies and plans"

Note that if a funding measure is to be proposed to voters, it would be developed either by the King County Council (with RTC) <u>or</u> by the King County Transportation District (separate government made up of all 9 County Council members)

ADOPTED TRANSIT POLICIES

Updated by Ordinance 19367 (December 2021)

Strategic Plan for Public Transportation
- Outlines Metro's goals, objectives, strategies, performance measures
- 10 goals, performance measures for each goal

Service Guidelines
- Set targets for the level of transit service
- Provide criteria to develop, modify, and evaluate transit service

Metro Connects
- Metro's long-range plan
- Plans for growth in transit service through 2050
- Not fully funded

STRATEGIC PLAN
OVERVIEW

- Ten-year plan (2021-2031)
- Metro's Mission

> Provide the best possible public transportation services and improve regional mobility and quality of life in King County

- Metro's Vision

> Metro will advance its mission by delivering a regional, innovative, and integrated mobility network that is safe, equitable, and sustainable

- Includes goals and performance measures to track progress

STRATEGIC PLAN
GOALS

GOAL	DESCRIPTION
Investments	Invest upstream and where needs are greatest
Sustainability	Address the climate crisis and environmental justice
Innovation	Innovate to improve mobility, complement transit, and advance equity and sustainability
Safety	Keep passengers, employees, and communities safe
Transit-Oriented Communities	Support thriving, equitable, transit-oriented communities that foster economic development
Access	Improve access to mobility options
Service Quality	Provide fast, reliability, and integrated mobility services
Workforce	Build a skilled, diverse, and well-supported workforce that has growth opportunities
Stewardship	Be responsible stewards of financial resources
Engagement	Conduct deliberate and transparent community engagement

STRATEGIC PLAN
PERFORMANCE MEASURES
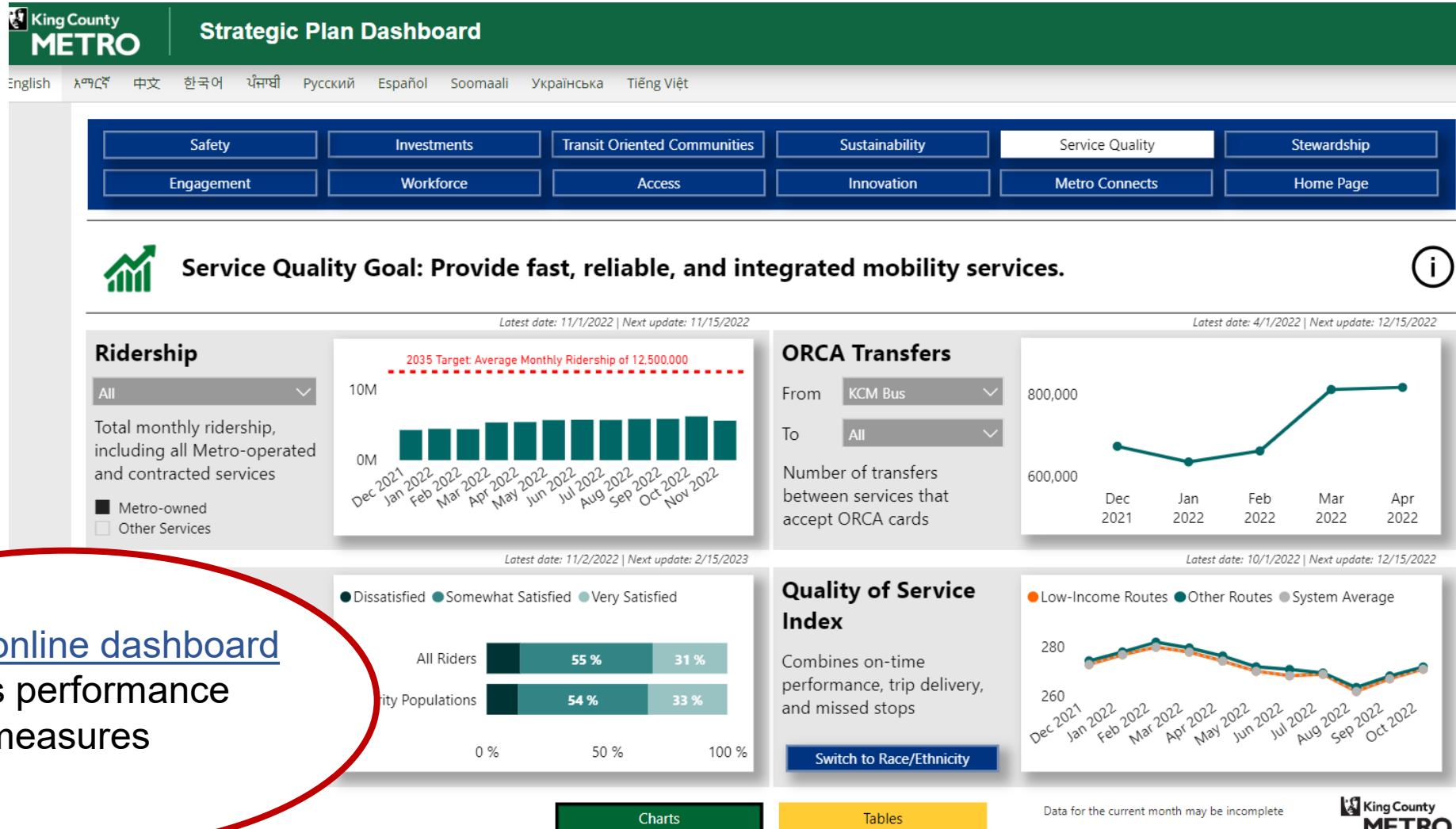
Metro's online dashboard tracks performance measures

SERVICE GUIDELINES
OVERVIEW

Provide criteria to guide Metro's daily operations

- **Develop service.** Criteria to plan, space, and organize fixed-route and flexible services
- **Modify service.** Criteria to:
  - Add service
  - Reduce service
  - Restructure service
- **Evaluate service.** Criteria to evaluate route performance and set target service levels

ADDING SERVICE

Updated Guidelines use three priorities to add fixed-route transit service

- **Priority 1 = Reduce Crowding:** add service to overcrowded routes

- **Priority 2 = Improve Reliability:** add service to routes that run late

- **Priority 3 = Grow Service:** fill gap between existing and target service using three factors:

Factors adopted for Priority #3	Prioritization *(How reach target)*	Weight *(What is target)*
Equity Metrics identify areas with priority populations	1	25%
Land Use Land use density based on # households, P&R stalls, jobs, low-income jobs, students w/in ¼ mile	2	50%
Geographic Value Connections between Centers	3	25%

REDUCING SERVICE

- Updated Guidelines use equity and productivity when transit reductions must be made

- Least productive and lowest equity routes are the first to be prioritized for reduction

Priority	Proposed Conditions for Order of Service Reduction
1	Routes in bottom 25% of both productivity measures, with low equity score (score of 1-3)
2	Routes in bottom 25% of both productivity measures, with high equity score (score of 4-5)
3	Routes in bottom 25% of one productivity measure, with low equity score (score of 1-3)
4	Routes in bottom 25% of one productivity measure, with high equity score (score of 4-5)
5	Routes in bottom 50% of one or both productivity measures, with low equity score (1-3)
6	Routes in bottom 50% of one or both productivity measures, with high equity score (4-5)

SERVICE GUIDELINES
RESTRUCTURING SERVICE

- Transit service is restructured for major land use or transportation changes (such as Link extension)

- Updated Guidelines add clarity on setting and measuring goals for service restructures

- Service duplicated by another agency in a restructure can be redeployed elsewhere to meet countywide needs

REPORTING & MONITORING

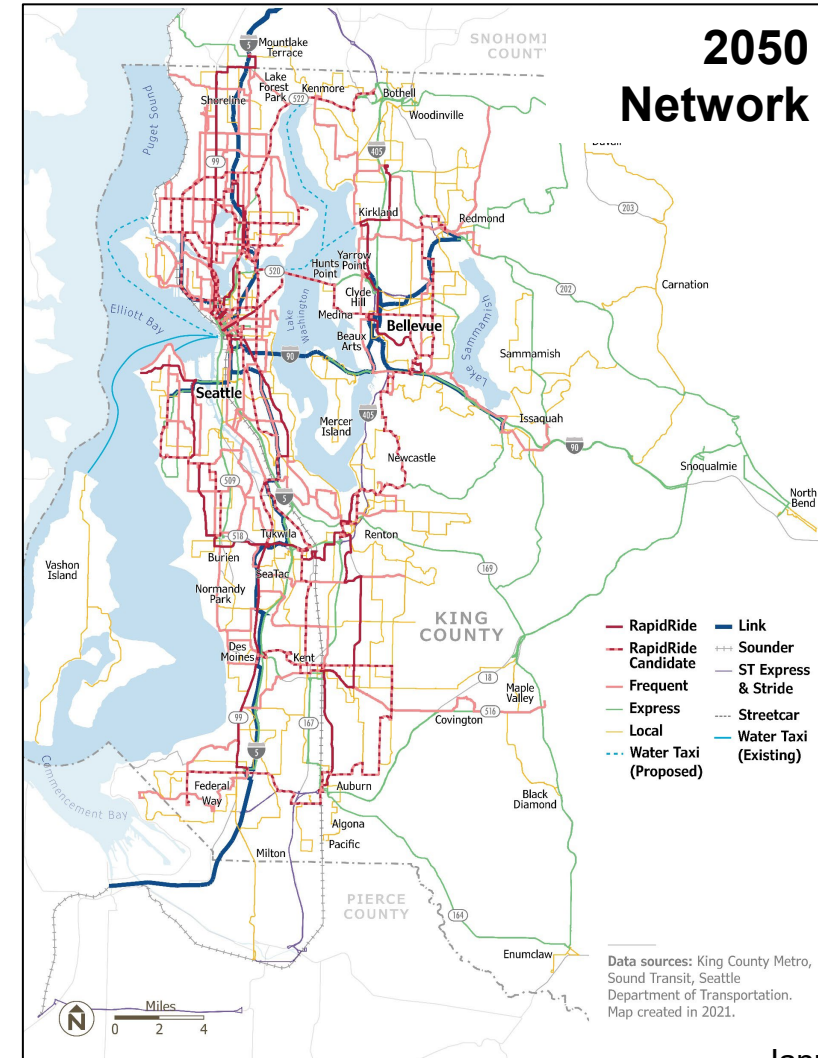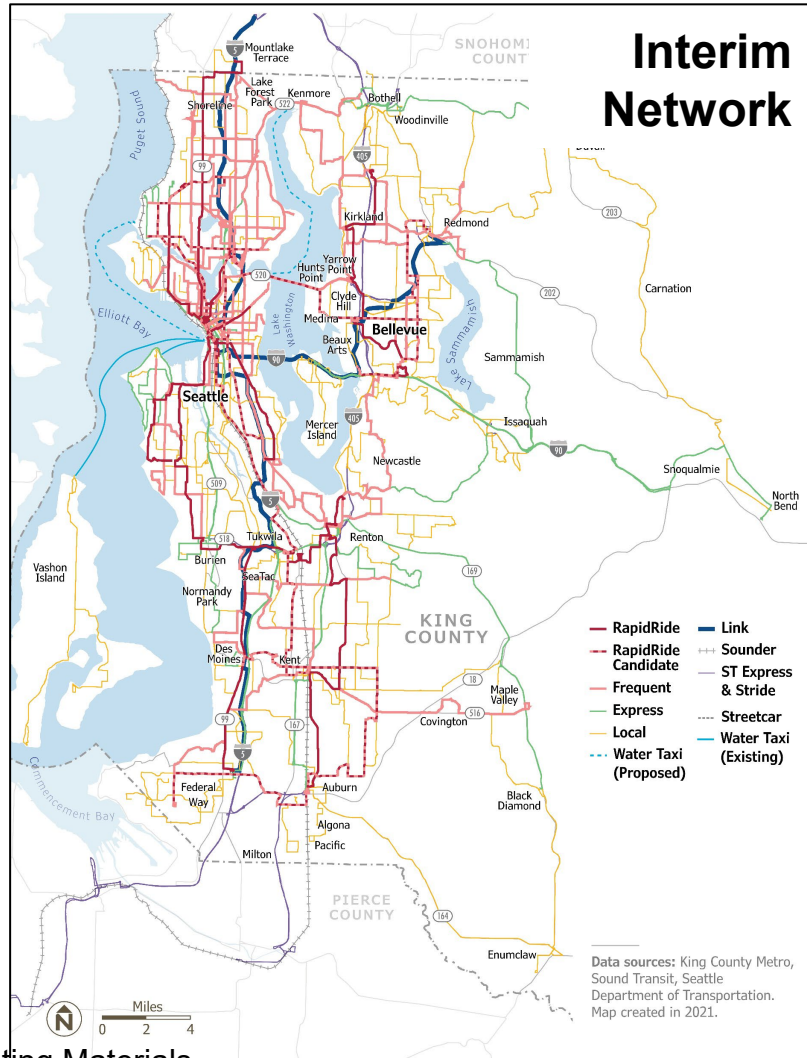**System Evaluation annual report**

- System Evaluation includes:
    - Target service levels for each route
    - Performance of each route on key metrics
    - Calculation of needed service investments to address Priority 1 (Crowding), Priority 2 (Reliability), Priority 3 (Service Growth)
    - Status of RapidRide implementation (new requirement)
- RTC and then Council act to accept the report by motion
- System Evaluation is due each year on October 31

OVERVIEW

- Metro Connects plans for transit service in two future transit networks: Interim Network (~2035) and 2050 Network

- Future networks include:
  - More frequent all-day service
  - New service to address South King County equity gaps
  - Rapid Ride lines identified as "candidates" rather than named lines

	2019 Actual	Interim Network	2050 Network
Annual Service Hours (Total)	3.855 million	5.5 million	7.25 million
Annual Ridership	121.4 million	150 million	200 million
RapidRide lines (Total)	6	13-15	19-23

METRO CONNECTS
FUTURE SERVICE NETWORKS

Interim Network

Data sources: King County Metro, Sound Transit, Seattle Department of Transportation. Map created in 2021.

2050 Network

Data sources: King County Metro, Sound Transit, Seattle Department of Transportation. Map created in 2021.

FUNDING GAP

- Metro Connects is unconstrained
- Funding must be identified to achieve the long-range vision

	Interim Network	2050 Network
Annual Service Costs (Total)	$1.092 billion	$1.466 billion
Annual Service Costs (Funded)	$669 million	$742 million
% Service Costs Funded	**61.3%**	**50.6%**
Capital Costs YOE* $ (Total)	$11.5 billion	$28.3 billion
Capital Costs YOE $ (Funded)	$4.4 billion	$10.3 billion
% Capital Costs Funded	**38.2%**	**36.4%**

*YOE = Year of Expenditure

King County Metro Transit Adopted Policies

Introduction to Metro policies as updated in 2021 (Ordinance 19367)
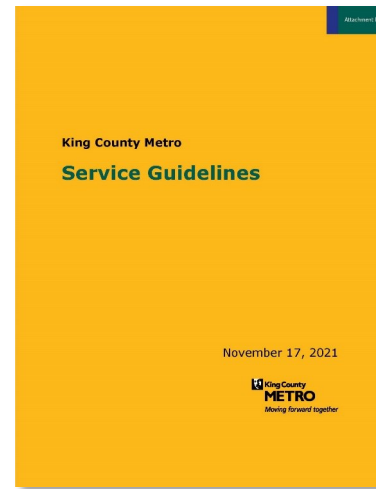
Strategic Plan for Public Transportation
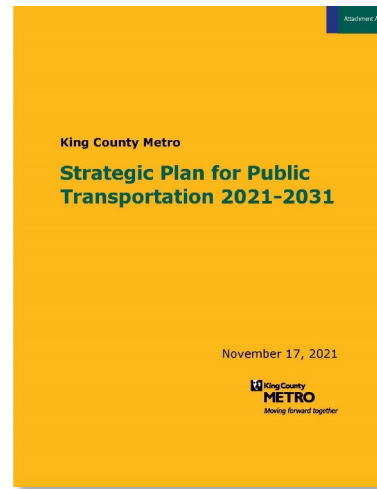
Metro's **Strategic Plan for Public Transportation, 2021-2031,** outlines Metro's goals, the strategies to achieve those goals, and the measures Metro uses to determine if it is succeeding. The Strategic Plan has 10 goals:

1. **Investments.** Invest upstream and where needs are greatest

2. **Sustainability.** Address the climate crisis and environmental justice

3. **Innovation.** Innovate to improve mobility, complement transit, and advance equity and sustainability

4. **Safety.** Keep passengers, employees, and communities safe

5. **Transit-Oriented Communities.** Support thriving, equitable, transit-oriented communities that foster economic development

6. **Access.** Improve access to mobility options

7. **Service Quality.** Provide fast, reliable, and integrated mobility services

8. **Workforce.** Partner with employees, unions, contractors, and communities to offer high-skill, high-wage careers that support a high quality of life

9. **Stewardship.** Be responsible stewards of financial resources and invest in line with values and goals

10. **Engagement.** Conduct deliberate and transparent community engagement

The Strategic Plan identifies strategies and performance measures for each goal. Performance measures will be tracked through an online dashboard, which is currently being developed. Metro must provide an oral report on this dashboard each year to the Regional Transit Committee and the King County Council.

Service Guidelines

Metro's **Service Guidelines** guide the day-to-day operations of the transit system through criteria to develop, modify, and evaluate transit service.

Developing transit service is guided by a set of criteria to plan, space, and organize fixed-route and flexible services.

Modifying transit service is guided by criteria and priorities for service investments, reductions, and restructures.

- **Service investments** are based on three priorities:
  - **Priority 1: Reduce Crowding** by adding service to over-crowded routes
  - **Priority 2: Improve Reliability** by adding service to routes that run late
  - **Priority 3: Grow Service** by filling the gap between existing service and target service levels using three factors: equity, land use, and geographic value

- **Service reductions,** when needed, are based on productivity and equity, with the least productive and lowest-equity-score routes prioritized for reduction.

- **Service restructures** change transit service in a geographic area when there is change to the transportation network (such as a new Link light rail line) or when there are development or land use changes. Service restructures are based on goals developed with the community.

Evaluating transit service is accomplished through the annual System Evaluation report, which is transmitted to the Regional Transit Committee and King County Council each October. The System Evaluation identifies target service levels and investment needs and reports ridership, productivity, passenger load, reliability, and equity metrics for each route.

Metro Connects Long-range Plan

Metro Connects is Metro's vision for the future. It outlines an expanded service network to be developed through an **Interim Network** (by the mid-2030s, to synchronize with Sound Transit expansion) and a **2050 Network.**

By 2050, Metro Connects envisions a transit system with:

- 7 million annual service hours, up from 4 million in 2019
- 200 million annual riders, up from 121 million in 2019
- 19-23 RapidRide lines, up from 6 in 2019
- $28.3 billion in associated capital improvements

Metro Connects is not fully funded, so additional regional funding will be needed to achieve the long-range vision.

To track progress toward implementing Metro Connects, Metro is required to transmit to the Regional Transit Committee and King County Council:

- **Metro Connects Implementation Report,** due by May 5, 2022, to describe the funding needed to implement Metro Connects, the funding gap, and potential funding sources to fill the gap

- **RapidRide Prioritization Plan,** due by June 30, 2024, to describe the RapidRide candidate lines to be implemented, organized by tier, with a description of the priority level for each

- **An update on the status of RapidRide implementation** to be included in each year's System Evaluation report

- **Metro Connects performance measures** to be included in the Strategic Plan's performance measures dashboard

Metropolitan King County Council
Regional Transit Committee

STAFF REPORT

Agenda Item:	8	Name:	Mary Bourguignon
Proposed No.:	2025-B0002	**Date:**	January 15, 2025

SUBJECT

At today's meeting, members of the Regional Transit Committee (RTC) will have the opportunity to discuss potential RTC work plan items for 2025.

SUMMARY

The King County Charter directs that the RTC be primarily responsible for developing, recommending, and reviewing "countywide policies and plans" related to regional transit.[1] These include Metro's three adopted policy documents: the Strategic Plan for Public Transportation, King County Metro Service Guidelines, and Metro Connects long-range plan.[2]

The King County Council's rule for regional committees[3] calls for the Chair to consult with the Vice Chair "in developing a draft work program for consideration by the full committee."

This staff report describes the major work items completed in 2024 and provides a list of potential work program items for 2025 to inform the Chair and Vice Chair's consultation and the full committee's consideration.

BACKGROUND

The Regional Transit Committee (RTC) is one of three committees formed in the 1990s when voters approved the merger of King County and the Municipality of Metropolitan Seattle, which at the time provided transit and wastewater services. King County's Charter[4] directs that RTC be primarily responsible for developing, recommending, and reviewing transit-related countywide policies and plans for consideration by the King County Council.

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[1] King County Charter Section 270.30
[2] Ordinance 19367
[3] Rule 7 (K.C.C. 1.24.065)
[4] King County Charter Section 270.30

The King County Council's rules state that:

> The regional transit committee shall develop, review and recommend countywide policies and plans related to the transportation services formerly provided by the municipality of metropolitan Seattle. Plans and policies that must be assigned to the committee include, but are not limited to, the long-range transit system and capital improvement plans, service design, development and allocation policies, financial policies, fare policies, facility siting policy and major facilities siting process, and review and comment upon Regional Transit Authority plans.[5]

The Council's rules also state that the RTC Chair should consult with the Vice Chair in "developing a draft work program for consideration by the full committee."[6]

The remainder of this staff report provides a description of the major work items completed in 2023 and an initial outline of potential work program items for 2024 to inform the Chair and Vice Chair's consultation.

Review of Major Work Items in 2024: Implementation of Metro Transit Policies

In late 2021, the RTC and Council adopted updates[7] to Metro's three adopted policy documents:

- **The Strategic Plan for Public Transportation** outlines Metro's goals, strategies, and performance measures.

- **The Service Guidelines** guide day-to-day delivery of transit service by helping Metro set targets for the level of transit service to be provided, evaluate performance, and add, reduce, or restructure service.

- **Metro Connects** is the adopted long-range plan, with a goal of increasing bus service hours from four million to seven million annual service hours between 2019 and 2050.

During 2024, the RTC focused on monitoring the implementation of the three policy documents, focusing in particular on the RapidRide Prioritization Plan.[8]

Potential Work Plan Items in 2025

Potential work plan items for RTC during 2025 have been divided into three thematic areas:

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[5] Rule 7 (KCC 1.24.065.K.2)
[6] Rule 7 (KCC 1.24.065.B.5.a(1))
[7] Ordinance 19367
[8] Motion 16659

- **ACTION** items are issues under RTC's jurisdiction, for which some type of action is needed. These items include:

  - System Evaluation (due October 31 each year)[9]
  - Performance measures dashboard annual report (oral briefing only, due by November 30 each year)[10]
  - Briefing on transit safety and security (required by a Council budget proviso, briefing must be provided to RTC and/or Council by April 30, 2025)[11]

- **MONITORING** items would be briefings on issues related to the implementation of the transit policies. These items could potentially include briefings on:

  - RapidRide development and implementation
  - Update on youth transit
  - Other issues?

- **CONTEXT** items would be informational briefings on general transit issues to provide RTC members with context to inform their actions. These items could potentially include a field trip to a Metro facility, as well as briefings on:

  - Ridership trends and service planning
  - The move to a zero-emission fleet
  - Metro operations
  - Other issues?

Next Steps

Following discussion at today's meeting, a potential meeting-by-meeting work plan will be developed. An updated work plan and Resolution will be shared at the next RTC meeting. The RTC can act to adopt a work plan Resolution if desired. The RTC does not need to take formal action to adopt the work plan, though an affirmation of the work plan by Resolution has, in past years, been helpful for committee members and staff to plan for the year ahead.

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[9] Required by Ordinance 19367
[10] Required by Ordinance 19367
[11] Required by Ordinance 19861, Section 115, Proviso P6