



# King County

1200 King County  
Courthouse  
516 Third Avenue  
Seattle, WA 98104

## Meeting Agenda Regional Transit Committee

**Councilmembers:**

**Steffanie Fain, Chair**  
**Sarah Perry, Pete von Reichbauer**

**Sound Cities Association:**

**Vice Chair: Barbara de Michele, Issaquah; Neal Black, Kirkland; JC Harris, Des Moines;**  
**Susan Honda, Federal Way; Ryan McIrvine, Renton; Pamela Stuart, Sammamish;**  
**Tracy Taylor-Turner, Auburn; Toni Troutner, Kent**

**Alternates:**

**Vishal Bhargava, Bellevue; Larry Goldman, Lake Forest Park;**  
**Jim Ribail, Carnation**

**City of Seattle:**

**Alexis Mercedes Rinck, Rob Saka**  
**Alternate: Dionne Foster**

**Lead Staff: Mary Bourguignon (206-263-3296)**  
**Committee Clerk: Blake Wells (206-263-1617)**

**3:00 PM**

**Wednesday, February 18, 2026**

**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.**

	<p>Sign language and interpreter services can be arranged given sufficient notice (206-848-0355). TTY Number - TTY 711.</p> <p>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.</p>	
--	--	--

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](mailto: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](mailto:tera.chea2@kingcounty.gov) by 8:00 a.m. three business days prior to the meeting.

#### CONNECTING TO THE WEBINAR:

Webinar ID: 883 1320 7140

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
2. Roll Call

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

	<p>Sign language and interpreter services can be arranged given sufficient notice (206-848-0355). TTY Number - TTY 711.</p> <p>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.</p>	
---	--	---

3. **Approval of Minutes** p. 4

*November 19, 2025 meeting minutes*

4. **Public Comment**

5. **General Manager's Report**

**Briefings**

6. [Briefing No. 2026-B0012](#) p. 7

RTC Overview - Structure and Role

*Mary Bourguignon, Council staff*

7. [Briefing No. 2026-B0013](#) p. 11

RTC Work Plan Discussion

*Mary Bourguignon, Council staff*

**Other Business**

**Adjournment**

	<p>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.</p>	
---	---	---



# King County

1200 King County  
Courthouse  
516 Third Avenue  
Seattle, WA 98104

## Meeting Minutes Regional Transit Committee

**Councilmembers:**

*Jorge L. Barón, Chair  
De'Sean Quinn*

**Sound Cities Association:**

*Vice Chair: Barbara de Michele, Issaquah; Neal Black,  
Kirkland;  
Joseph Cimaomo, Jr., Covington; Susan Honda, Federal Way;  
Karen Howe, Sammamish; Ryan McIrvine, Renton;  
Katherine Ross, Snoqualmie; Toni Troutner, Kent;*

**Alternates:**

*Paul Charbonneau, Newcastle; JC Harris, Des Moines;  
Tarlochan Mann, Pacific; Tracy Taylor, Auburn*

**City of Seattle:**

*Joy Hollingsworth, Rob Saka  
Alternate: Robert Kettle*

**Lead Staff:** *Mary Bourguignon (206-263-3296)*  
**Committee Clerk:** *Blake Wells (206-263-1617)*

---

3:00 PM

Wednesday, November 19, 2025

Hybrid Meeting

---

### DRAFT MINUTES

1. **Call to Order**

*Chair Barón called the meeting to order at 3:03 PM.*

2. **Roll Call**

**Present:** 11 - Cimaomo Jr., de Michele, McIrvine, Ross, Troutner, Barón, Saka, Quinn, Black, Harris and Taylor

**Excused:** 3 - Honda, Hollingsworth and Howe

3. **Approval of Minutes**

*Vice Chair de Michele moved approval of the October 15, 2025 and September 17, 2025 meeting minutes. There being no objections, the minutes were approved.*

4. **Chair's Report**

*Chair Barón provided an overview of the agenda.*

**5. Public Comment**

*The following people provided public comment:*

*Alex Tsimerman*

**6. General Manager's Report**

*DeAnna Martin, Chief of Staff, Metro Transit Department, briefed the committee on safety, ridership, Metro Transit Department's budget for the next two years, fall service changes, and equitable access and answered questions from the members.*

**Briefing****7. [Briefing No. 2025-B0157](#)**

Transit Safety Task Force Recommendations

*Mary Bourguignon, Council staff, briefed the committee. Sacha Taylor, Transit Safety Task Force Facilitator, Ashley Street, Transit Safety Task Force Facilitator, and DeAnna Martin, Chief of Staff, Metro Transit Department, briefed the committee via PowerPoint presentations and answered questions from the members.*

**This matter was presented.**

**Discussion and Possible Action****8. [Proposed Motion No. 2025-0346](#)**

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 2025 System Evaluation.

*Mary Bourguignon, Council staff, briefed the committee and answered questions from the members. Corey Holder, Transportation Planner, Metro Transit Department, and DeAnna Martin, Chief of Staff, Metro Transit Department, also answered questions from the members.*

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

**Yes:** 7.5 - Cimaomo Jr., de Michele, McIrvn, Ross, Troutner, Barón, Saka, Quinn, Black and Harris

**Excused:** 4 - Honda, Hollingsworth, Howe and Taylor

**Other Business**

*There was no other business to come before the committee.*

**Adjournment**

*The meeting was adjourned at 4:32 PM.*

Approved this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Clerk's Signature



**King County**

**Metropolitan King County Council  
Regional Transit Committee**

**STAFF REPORT**

<b>Agenda Item:</b>	6	<b>Name:</b>	Mary Bourguignon
<b>Proposed No.:</b>	2026-B0012	<b>Date:</b>	February 18, 2026

**SUBJECT**

Today’s briefing provides an overview of the structure and role of the Regional Transit Committee (RTC).

**SUMMARY**

- In terms of structure, the RTC has three caucuses with a total of 12 votes:

King County	3 members with	2 votes each =	6 total votes
Seattle	2 members with	1 vote each =	2 total votes
Sound Cities <sup>1</sup>	8 members with	½ vote each =	4 total votes

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

- In terms of the RTC’s role, oversight of Metro’s operations is governed jointly:
  - The King County Council oversees Metro’s budget, financial management, and operations, including transit service changes
  - The RTC and King County Council share responsibility for the development, adoption, and monitoring of “**countywide policies and plans**” related to transit:
    - Strategic Plan for Public Transportation
    - King County Metro Service Guidelines
    - Metro Connects long-range plan
- These three countywide policies and plans were last updated by the RTC and King County Council in 2021, and are next scheduled to be updated in 2028

---

<sup>1</sup> “Other cities and towns” (represented by the Sound Cities Association, SCA) technically have four voting members (and four votes) on the RTC. The SCA has historically chosen to allocate those votes among eight people, with each person casting ½ vote.

## **BACKGROUND**

**Metro.** King County’s Metro Transit Department (Metro) is the largest provider of public transit services in the region. Metro operates fixed-route bus and water taxi service; flexible, shared, and accessible services; and bus, light rail, and streetcar services under contract to Sound Transit and the City of Seattle. Metro’s \$3.1 billion 2026-2027 budget funds nearly 4,000,000 annual transit service hours a year through 11,500 bus trips each weekday. Metro served 89.9 million riders in 2025, 7% more than in 2024.

**Dual governance.** In 1958, King County voters created a new regional authority, the Municipality of Metropolitan Seattle (called Metro), to oversee wastewater treatment.

In 1973, following voter approval, Metro took over transit operations from the City of Seattle’s Seattle Transit System and the private Metropolitan Transit Corporation<sup>2</sup> to provide countywide transit service.

In 1992, voters approved the merger of the Metro agency’s functions into King County. As part of the merger, voters amended the King County Charter to establish three regional committees to oversee the functions of the former Metro agency: the Regional Policy Committee (RPC), Regional Water Quality Committee (RWQC), and Regional Transit Committee (RTC).<sup>3</sup>

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.”<sup>4</sup>

**RTC structure.** The King County Charter outlines the composition of the regional committees. In terms of the membership of the regional committees, the Charter states that each regional committee shall consist of nine voting members, with weighted voting rights for a total of 12 votes.<sup>5</sup>

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

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

\*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 historically chosen to allocate those votes among eight people, with each person casting ½ vote.

<sup>2</sup> King County Metropolitan Services, 1995, “Better than Promised: An Informal History of the Municipality of Metropolitan Seattle,” Bob Lane ([link](#)), About Metro, Transit Milestones, The 1970s ([link](#))

<sup>3</sup> King County Charter §270

<sup>4</sup> King County Charter §270.30

<sup>5</sup> King County Charter Section 270.20 Composition of regional committees

In terms of the leadership of the regional committees, the Charter states that:

- The Chair is a County Councilmember appointed by the Council
- The Vice Chair is selected by the non-County RTC members<sup>6</sup> through the weighted voting listed above

**RTC role.** In terms of the RTC's role, the King County Code specifies that the RTC's role is to oversee **countywide policies and plans** related to the transit services formerly provided by the Municipality of Metropolitan Seattle.<sup>7</sup>

These countywide policies and plans have been defined as Metro's three adopted policy documents, which were last updated by the RTC and King County Council in 2021 and are next expected to be updated in 2028.<sup>8</sup>

- **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<sup>9</sup> (late-2030s) and a 2050 Network.

Beyond the oversight of Metro's countywide policies and plans, the King County Council serves as Metro's governing body, and is responsible for overseeing Metro's budget, fund management, and operations, including service changes<sup>10</sup> and transit safety and security.<sup>11</sup> When federal or state compliance documents require approval by a transit agency's Board of Directors, the King County Council fills that role for Metro.

## **ATTACHMENTS**

### 1. Overview of Metro policy documents

---

<sup>6</sup> King County Charter Section 270.20 Composition of regional committees

<sup>7</sup> KCC 1.24.065.D.1.a (Rule 7)

<sup>8</sup> Ordinance 19367

<sup>9</sup> 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.

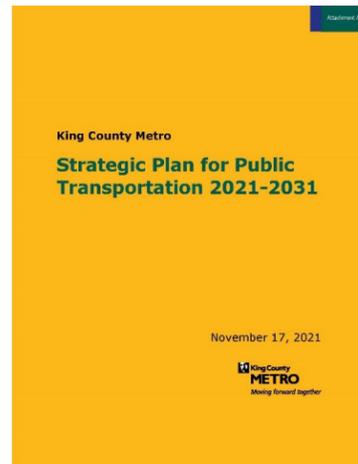
<sup>10</sup> Under the King County Code (KCC 28.94.020.B), Metro's General Manager has the authority to make administrative service changes to change a route's established weekly service hours by 25% or less; change a route's location by less than one-half mile from any existing stop; change route numbers; or make necessary service changes in response to an emergency. All other changes require Council approval and are therefore classified as "major" service changes. Metro generally implements major service changes twice a year, in spring and fall.

<sup>11</sup> As part of the Council's oversight of transit safety and security, the Council must approve each update to Metro's federally required Public Transportation Agency Safety Plan (PTASP), prior to Metro submitting the PTASP to the FTA. The most recent PTASP was approved by the Council in 2024 through Motion 16618.

# King County Metro Transit Adopted Policies

Introduction to Metro policies as updated in 2021 (Ordinance 19367)

## Strategic Plan for Public Transportation

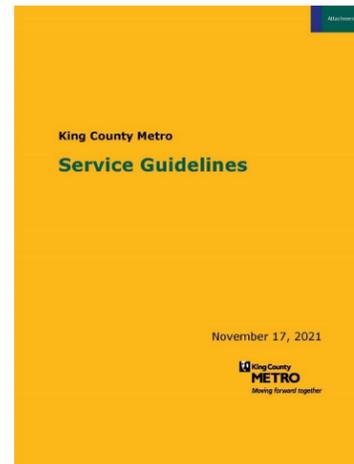


Metro's **Strategic Plan for Public Transportation, 2021-2031**, outlines Metro's goals, the strategies to achieve those goals, and the measures Metro uses to determine if it is succeeding. The Strategic Plan has 10 goals:

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



**King County**

**Metropolitan King County Council  
Regional Transit Committee**

**STAFF REPORT**

<b>Agenda Item:</b>	7	<b>Name:</b>	Mary Bourguignon
<b>Proposed No.:</b>	2026-B0013	<b>Date:</b>	February 18, 2026

**SUBJECT**

At today’s meeting, members of the Regional Transit Committee (RTC) will have the opportunity to discuss potential RTC work plan items for 2026.

**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.<sup>1</sup> These are Metro’s three adopted policy documents: the Strategic Plan for Public Transportation, King County Metro Service Guidelines, and Metro Connects long-range plan.<sup>2</sup>

The King County Council’s rule for regional committees<sup>3</sup> calls for the Chair to consult in developing a draft work program for consideration by the full committee.

This staff report provides a list of potential RTC work program items for 2026. Following discussion, committee staff will develop a proposed work program, and the committee will be able to adopt it by Resolution. The work plan is not binding and can be changed as needed but is meant to serve as a road map for the RTC’s work during 2026.

**BACKGROUND**

The Regional Transit Committee (RTC) is one of three regional committees formed in the early 1990s when voters approved the merger of the Municipality of Metropolitan Seattle, which had provided transit and wastewater services, into King County.

The King County Charter<sup>4</sup> gives RTC the responsibility to develop, recommend, and review transit-related **countywide policies and plans** for consideration by the King County Council. These countywide policies and plans are defined as Metro’s three

---

<sup>1</sup> King County Charter Section 270.30

<sup>2</sup> Ordinance 19367

<sup>3</sup> Rule 7 (K.C.C. 1.24.065)

<sup>4</sup> King County Charter Section 270.30

adopted policy documents, which the RTC and King County Council updated in 2021 and which are next due to be updated in 2028.<sup>5</sup>

- **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.

**2026 work plan ideas.** RTC meets at 3:00 PM on the third Wednesday of the month. During 2026, RTC will not hold meetings in January, April, August, or December.

In terms of work plan items for the other months of the year, Council staff have worked with the RTC Chair and Metro to identify potential work plan items, with the goal of sharing information to update committee members on key Metro issues and help the committee prepare for the upcoming update to Metro's adopted policy documents.

Draft work plan topics include:

- Preparation for FIFA World Cup events  
*NOTE that the King County Council's TrEE Committee is planning a multi-agency briefing on transportation planning for the World Cup at its April 21 meeting. Since RTC will not meet in April, the Chair is consulting with RTC members about ways to involve RTC in this briefing. There could also be a separate recap briefing later in the year to review transit use and lessons learned.*
- Performance measures dashboard annual report ([link](#))  
(Annual briefing on the dashboard is required by Ordinance 19367)
- Introduction to Metro's Rider Dashboard ([link](#))
- 2026 System Evaluation Report  
(Acceptance of the report by motion is required by Ordinance 19367)
- Introduction to Metro's adopted policy documents and Metro's plans to update them (Strategic Plan, Service Guidelines, Metro Connects long-range plan)
- Metro's service recovery planning (rebuilding post-pandemic)
- Metro's Next Stop (planning for future investments)

---

<sup>5</sup> Ordinance 19367

- RapidRide update (I, J, K, R Lines currently being developed)
- ORCA use and distribution
- Transit Safety Task Force recommendations and implementation
- Transition to zero emission fleet, opening of fully-electric Tukwila Base

In addition to scheduled work plan items, a report by the Metro General Manager at each RTC meeting will provide ongoing updates on Metro's operations.

**Next steps.** Following discussion at today's meeting, a work plan and Resolution will be developed to be shared at the next RTC meeting. The RTC can then act to adopt a work plan Resolution if desired.

The RTC does not need to take formal action to adopt a work plan, and the work plan will not be binding and can be changed or adjusted as needed. In past years, RTC members have indicated that adopting a work plan by Resolution has been helpful for committee members and staff to plan for the year ahead.