



KING COUNTY

1200 King County Courthouse
516 Third Avenue
Seattle, WA 98104

Signature Report

November 14, 2017

Motion 14998

Proposed No. 2017-0448.1

Sponsors Upthegrove and Kohl-Welles

1 A MOTION directing the transit division to increase efforts
2 to enroll eligible adults in the ORCA LIFT program before
3 July 1, 2018.

4 WHEREAS, King County, through Ordinance 17757, instituted a program for
5 low-income transit fares, and

6 WHEREAS, Motion 14246 accepted the Low-Income Fare Program
7 Implementation Plan, which required progress reports on the program after the first year
8 of operations, and twelve and twenty-four months later, and

9 WHEREAS, the ORCA LIFT program was launched in February 2015, offering
10 low-income fares for individuals and families earning up to two hundred percent of the
11 federal poverty level, and

12 WHEREAS, over 50,000 people are enrolled in ORCA LIFT as of August 2017,
13 and

14 WHEREAS, King County, through Proposed Ordinance 2017-0350, is
15 considering a transit fare change to eliminate the zone and peak fare price differentials
16 and implement a regular flat fare of \$2.75, which represents a \$0.25 increase in the
17 regular off-peak fare, and

18 WHEREAS, riders who travel during the off-peak who do not use a subsidized
19 transit pass would be adversely impacted by the change, and

20 WHEREAS, outreach about the fare change proposal determined that a minority
21 of people surveyed consider a \$2.75 flat fare unaffordable, some of who may qualify for
22 discounted fares through ORCA LIFT, and

23 WHEREAS, increasing enrollment in ORCA LIFT would eliminate the adverse
24 impact of a flat \$2.75 regular fare for some of the most price sensitive riders, particularly
25 for riders who travel during the off-peak time period;

26 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT MOVED by the Council of King County:

27 A. The council directs the transit division to increase ORCA LIFT outreach and
28 enrollment efforts before July 1, 2018, with the efforts aimed at transit riders most likely
29 to be adversely impacted by an increase in the off-peak fare, such as workers with
30 nontraditional working hours, university and college students and occasional riders.

31 B. The council directs the transit division to report on the activities undertaken

32 and outcomes of such efforts in the 2018 OCRA LIFT Progress Report required by
33 Motion 14246.
34

Motion 14998 was introduced on 10/23/2017 and passed by the Metropolitan King
County Council on 11/13/2017, by the following vote:

Yes: 8 - Mr. von Reichbauer, Mr. Gossett, Mr. Dunn, Mr. McDermott,
Mr. Dembowski, Mr. Upthegrove, Ms. Kohl-Welles and Ms. Balducci
No: 0
Excused: 1 - Ms. Lambert

KING COUNTY COUNCIL
KING COUNTY, WASHINGTON



J. Joseph McDermott

ATTEST:



Melani Pedroza, Clerk of the Council



Attachments: None