



# KING COUNTY

1200 King County Courthouse  
516 Third Avenue  
Seattle, WA 98104

## Signature Report

### Ordinance 19058

**Proposed No.** 2020-0023.2

**Sponsors** Dembowski, Kohl-Welles,  
McDermott, Balducci and Zahilay

1 AN ORDINANCE adding an income-based fare subsidy  
2 component to the low-income transit fare program; and  
3 amending Ordinance 17757, Section 5, as amended, and  
4 K.C.C. 4A.700.490.

5 **STATEMENT OF FACTS:**

- 6 1. The King County council has worked with the King County executive  
7 and the Metro transit department ("Metro") to implement a number of  
8 programs to make public transit more affordable and accessible to people  
9 in need.
- 10 2. Ordinance 12643 authorized the sale of transit tickets to human  
11 services agencies at a discounted price to allow human services agencies  
12 to provide free or low-cost transit tickets to the people they serve and  
13 established the regional reduced fare program, which provides a reduced  
14 transit fare for people with disabilities and seniors over age sixty-five.
- 15 3. Ordinance 13480 authorized transit pass agreements with public school  
16 districts and established a no-charge child fare and a reduced-price youth  
17 fare for younger transit riders.
- 18 4. Ordinance 17757 authorized the use of region's transit fare card, the  
19 One Regional Card for All, also known as ORCA, for a low-income fare

20 for people with household income at or below two hundred percent of the  
21 federal poverty level.

22 5. The 2019-2020 Biennial Budget Ordinance, Ordinance 18835, Section  
23 109, Proviso P3, as amended by Ordinance 18930, Section 75, required  
24 the executive to develop an income-based fare program to provide no or  
25 very low cost access to transit for residents earning one hundred thirty-five  
26 percent of the federal poverty level or less and asked that the program be  
27 informed by input from an income-based fare stakeholder group, guidance  
28 from academic or private sector experts, data and market research on the  
29 transportation needs and access barriers of low-income populations and  
30 the King County Equity and Social Justice Strategic Plan.

31 6. Ordinance 18930 changed the eligibility threshold for the income-  
32 based fare program to one hundred thirty-eight percent of the federal  
33 poverty level or below.

34 7. In response to Ordinances 18835 and 18930, Metro convened an  
35 income-based fare stakeholder group, reviewed guidance from experts and  
36 data from market research and transmitted an income-based fare program  
37 implementation plan, which was approved by the King County council by  
38 Motion XXXXX (Proposed Motion 2019-0022).

39 8. Adoption of this ordinance would authorize Metro, subject to  
40 appropriation authority, to subsidize the low-income fare for Metro's  
41 public transit service for people whose incomes are at or below eighty  
42 percent of the federal poverty level.

43 BE IT ORDAINED BY THE COUNCIL OF KING COUNTY:

44 SECTION 1. Ordinance 17757, Section 5, as amended, and K.C.C. 4A.700.490

45 are hereby amended to read as follows:

46 A. The director of the Metro transit department may implement and administer a  
47 low-income transit fare program using the existing smart card One Regional Card for All,  
48 also known as ORCA, system. The eligibility threshold for the low-income fare is set at  
49 two hundred percent of the federal poverty level.

50 B. Subject to appropriation authority, the director may authorize subsidizing the  
51 low-income transit fare for persons whose household income is verified to be at or below  
52 eighty percent of the federal poverty level. Income verification shall be performed in

53 accordance with written requirements approved by the director, which requirements shall  
54 be crafted to impose the least burden possible on the applicant for the program.  
55

Ordinance 19058 was introduced on 1/28/2020 and passed by the Metropolitan King County Council on 2/25/2020, by the following vote:

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



KING COUNTY COUNCIL  
KING COUNTY, WASHINGTON

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Claudia Balducci".

Claudia Balducci, Chair

ATTEST:

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Melani Pedroza".

Melani Pedroza, Clerk of the Council

APPROVED this 5<sup>TH</sup> day of MARCH, 2020.

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DWIGHT D. DIVELY FOR

Dow Constantine, County Executive

**Attachments:** None