



A message from Metro Transit General Manager Kevin Desmond



You received this message because you have shown an interest in public transportation. I want to keep you informed about events and issues that affect Metro and the people we serve. Watch for occasional messages from me in the months ahead.

[Subscribe/unsubscribe](#)

(If you received this message directly you do not need to subscribe.)

For more information:

[RapidRide website](#)

[RapidRide system](#)

[RapidRide Blog](#)

October 1, 2010

RapidRide will roll out tomorrow

I am pleased to announce that Metro is about to launch an exciting new generation of bus service—RapidRide.

This Saturday, Oct. 2, the A Line will start rolling along Pacific Highway S/ International Blvd between the Federal Way Transit Center and the Tukwila International Boulevard Station, serving a corridor where many people rely on the bus to get around. RapidRide will provide service to a number of cities and major destinations like Highline Community College and Sea-Tac International Airport—as well as connect riders to Link light rail and local bus routes.

Frequent, easy-to-use service

The A Line is designed to keep people moving in comfort, all day long. It will operate 24/7. Buses will arrive every 15 minutes most of the day, and every 10 minutes during peak commute periods. A transit signal priority system, along with roadway improvements, will help RapidRide buses move more and stop less.

RapidRide buses have low floors and three doors to make boarding easy and fast. They also feature a new interior seating design, automated “next stop” displays and announcements, air conditioning, and free Wi-Fi. And they sport an eye-catching new red, black, and yellow color scheme.

Stations will have real-time bus arrival signs and ORCA card readers so riders with cards can pay before they board the bus.

I want to acknowledge the cities of Federal Way, Kent, Des Moines, SeaTac and Tukwila and the Washington State Department of Transportation for making roadway improvements and collaborating with us on the design and installation of innovative features of this new service.

Part of Transit Now

RapidRide is a key element of Transit Now, the initiative King County voters passed in 2006. Although the tough economy has caused a steep decline in Metro’s revenues and forced us to suspend some parts of the Transit Now program, we have managed to move forward with RapidRide. The King County Executive and County Council have taken action to support the program, and we have been awarded millions of dollars in grants because of RapidRide’s potential to efficiently serve thousands of riders in some of the county’s most densely populated areas. We have received more than \$61 million in federal and state grants, with an additional \$20 million included in President Obama’s 2010 budget, to build a total of six RapidRide lines. Combined, these grants are expected to cover nearly 40 percent of the capital cost of putting RapidRide on the road.

RapidRide takes Metro service to a new level, and I believe it will help define our future by delivering faster, more frequent, and reliable service along major transportation corridors. We are on schedule to deliver this elevated level of service to more communities as we launch five more RapidRide lines between now and 2013. I am proud that we are helping the region move toward its vision of a next-generation public transportation system that can meet the needs of our growing population.

I invite you to experience RapidRide by trying the A Line this Saturday or Sunday, when rides are free.

Sincerely,

Kevin Desmond, General Manager
King County Metro Transit

