



A message from Metro Transit
General Manager Kevin Desmond



January 10, 2011

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.



We'll Get You There

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What's ahead for Metro in 2011

A new year is a time to start fresh and do some things differently—and that's certainly true for Metro Transit in 2011. Here's a glimpse of what's ahead for us.

The thoughtful recommendations of the Regional Transit Task Force are leading to changes in several areas:

- **We're improving performance reporting to the public**, as the Task Force advised us to do. This week we launched a new performance dashboard as one of a number of steps we're taking toward greater transparency. Check it out, and send me an e-mail if you have any suggestions for information you'd like to see.
>><http://metro.kingcounty.gov/am/reports/monthly-measures>
- **We're drafting Metro's new strategic plan**, and incorporating the Task Force's findings into our priorities and goals. Executive Constantine will submit the plan to the County Council at the end of February, and I encourage you to become engaged in the review process.
- **We will soon begin planning Metro's 2012-2013 budget**. Based on revenue projections, Metro faces the prospect of deep service cuts despite substantial savings we will achieve from labor agreements, especially with the Amalgamated Transit Union. Employees' willingness to forgo cost-of-living increases for 2011 will help us preserve a lot of service hours, but Metro still faces large deficits because our funding structure relies heavily on sales tax. The Task Force recommended that we emphasize productivity, ensure social equity, and provide geographic value as we make decisions about service. The budget will also reflect our efforts to find new operating efficiencies, another Task Force recommendation.
>><http://metro.kingcounty.gov/am/budget.html>

Other changes on the horizon:



Downtown Seattle route revisions. As the Alaskan Way Viaduct project ramps up, Metro is working with the Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) and the City of Seattle to keep people moving during construction. With support from WSDOT, we're adding trips on routes that travel through the construction corridor.

And beginning February 5, we'll change routing, stops, and schedules for many bus routes serving downtown Seattle as we focus more of the all-day transit network on the Third Avenue transit spine. Several routes will move from First Avenue to Third Avenue, and some that currently use Third Avenue will shift to Second and Fourth or use a different stop pattern. We're planning a big effort to inform our customers about these changes through our website, rider alerts, and "street teams" of Metro employees who will personally assist riders.

>><http://metro.kingcounty.gov/up/projects/viaduct-SODO.html>

More bus trips for start of SR-520 tolling. When WSDOT starts charging tolls, we expect ridership to grow on Metro and Sound Transit bus routes that cross the Evergreen Point Floating Bridge. With support from the federal urban partnership program, our local property tax, and WSDOT, the Puget Sound Regional Council and Sound Transit, we are adding 130 bus trips each weekday to these routes.

>>www.wsdot.wa.gov/Projects/LkWaMgt/Transit.htm

Electric trolley bus replacement. In late spring, we'll finish our evaluation of options for replacing Metro's aging electric trolleys. The fleet replacement plan will be included in our 2012-2013 budget.

>> <http://metro.kingcounty.gov/up/projects/trolleyevaluation.html>



RapidRide. The B Line will start service this fall between the Bellevue and Redmond transit centers via Crossroads and Overlake. Early feedback on the A Line, serving Pacific Highway S/International Boulevard, has been positive. Ridership was up over 20 percent in November compared to the prior year's performance of the old route 174.

>>www.kingcounty.gov/transportation/kcdot/MetroTransit/RapidRide/BLLine.asp

I'll tell you more about these and other efforts to improve Metro service and productivity as the year unfolds. In the meantime, best wishes for the new year!

Sincerely,

Kevin Desmond, General Manager
King County Metro Transit

www.kingcounty.gov/metro