POTENTIAL CHANGES TO THE SERVICE GUIDELINES AND STRATEGIC PLAN

The *2014 Guidelines Report* reflects changes to the service guidelines methodology that were adopted when the strategic plan and guidelines were updated in 2013. Metro strives to improve and refine the service guidelines, and is preparing for a 2015 update. Topics that may be addressed include the following:

1) **Reviewing social equity and geographic value measures.** Metro stakeholders have expressed interest in further review of the social equity and geographic measures in the Strategic Plan and Service Guidelines. Metro will be working with those stakeholders to explore how these issues are considered and balanced in the current guidelines and any potential policy changes. That discussion could also consider how to ensure that services are assessed appropriately by market.

2) **Long-range plan development.** Our process of developing a long-range plan over the next two years may prompt us to consider updates to the strategic plan and service guidelines. The long-range plan will create a foundation for better coordination with partners, cities and other stakeholders; provide direction for cities in land-use and policy decisions; and provide better guidance on the future of Metro's service network. It will include service and capital elements of a future transit network.

3) **Revisions to passenger load measures.** Metro is working with the Regional Transit Committee and King County Council staff to consider revisions to passenger load measures, including moving from a measure based on the number of seats in the bus to a measure based on area in the bus. Moving to area-based thresholds would resolve a concern that the guidelines will identify more crowding as Metro uses more low-floor buses, which have fewer seats. The Regional Transit Committee is reviewing this report and working with Metro to develop policy language and guidance about what to include in the 2015 update.

4) **Alternative services.** Metro is continuing to identify and support development of alternative services, including developing concepts for new pilot projects. As this program grows and performance information becomes available, we will be developing performance measures for alternative services. Development of this program may lead to updates of the alternative services policies in the strategic plan.

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