



# City of Seattle

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Ron Sims  
King County Executive Office  
701 Fifth Avenue, Suite 3210  
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July 27, 2006

### **RE: King County's Transit Now initiative proposal**

Executive Sims,

As stewards of Seattle's Comprehensive Plan with a strong interest in regional growth management issues, the Seattle Planning Commission has followed King County's Transit Now initiative proposal. The Planning Commission commends you on your strong effort to provide the transit service this region needs. We support the goals of Transit Now, but we urge you to consider altering your service delivery criteria from a mathematical formula to one that is designed to put service where it would be most used, by the most people, in the most efficient manner. We urge King County to better focus transit service delivery based on density, ridership, car ownership, zoning, and growth targets.

The Commission has also been following the Puget Sound Regional Council's Vision 2020 Update process. The update looks to accommodate an increase in population of over 1.7 million people and 1.2 million new jobs in the Puget Sound region by 2040. Several of the scenarios propose that the city of Seattle accommodate a large percentage of that growth – even a disproportionate share in some scenarios. If Seattle is to accommodate the kind of growth PSRC envisions for it, transportation and zoning infrastructure must be in place. Transit Now should strive to tie these two processes together.

Although we understand that the current 40/40/20 sub-area equity split was established to correct an initial imbalance of transit service in the King County Metro service area, it may now be an appropriate time to review that policy. It is our hope that improved transit service could be provided to areas that are ready and waiting to accommodate it and areas that are prepared to accept additional growth as part of the region's growth management efforts. By putting the service where it is most needed and will be most used, Metro would be fostering a service that would help achieve the region's overall growth management goals as well as a service that would be more financially self-sufficient and a more effective use of public resources.

Sincerely,

Jerry Finrow, Chair  
Seattle Planning Commission

CC:  
Mayor Greg Nickels  
Seattle City Council  
Grace Crunican, Susan Sanchez, Jemae Hoffman, SDOT  
Mike Mann, OPM