

Mayor
Tom French

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Councilmembers
Tracy Furutani
Larry Goldman
Paula Goode
Matt Muilenburg
Josh Rosenau
Semra Riddle
Ellyn Saunders

June ____, 2026

King County Metro

Dear King County Metro,

We the undersigned are elected officials or community activists writing to express concern that the upcoming changes to Metro route 372 and Sound Transit route 522 will substantially worsen transit options for people living in our communities.

To be clear, we are avid transit supporters (see the attached proclamation of Ride Transit Month) and want to see Metro design a system that complements Sound Transit and serves the community. Our concern is that when taking Metro and Sound Transit's changes in aggregate, service will suffer. Compared to today's service levels on the Bothell Way (SR522) corridor, Metro and ST's proposals will cut frequency in half and will remove all bus service that travels between Lake City and Lake Forest Park/Kenmore/Bothell (Northshore communities). On top of that, Metro and Sound Transit are NOT planning a transfer stop between new routes 72 and S3, so passengers looking to travel between Lake City and Northshore will have to endure detours that add time and require crossing busy roads multiple times. To put it bluntly, this will cause current transit riders to switch to driving, which is something that none of us want to happen.

In addition, much of the SR522 corridor has become a food and pharmacy desert with the recent closure of at least four pharmacies and/or grocery stores along SR522 between 125th Street and LFP Town Center. These transit changes will make it harder for residents to reach the remaining stores such as Safeway in LFP or Ostrom's pharmacy in Kenmore. We have heard directly from constituents who don't have cars and currently rely on transit for routine errands that will no longer be able to do that once the current bus service is lost. Microtransit options such as Metro Flex aren't a solution because these constituents don't live in the Flex service area. Are those constituents simply supposed start taking Uber to get their groceries and prescriptions?

We want to be constructive, so we are offering a specific proposal. We can think of Shoreline South Link station, Northshore, and Lake City as the three points of a triangle. Three points require three routes to fully connect them. In Metro's proposal, routes 65 and 72 will both connect Lake City and Shoreline South, duplicating service. Sound Transit's route 522 will connect Northshore and Shoreline. It would make sense to maintain the 372 between Lake City and Northshore to connect the missing leg while not duplicating route 65. This would ensure that these local neighborhoods maintain their connectivity and vibrancy. Other solutions might involve a bus connecting Northshore communities and Lake City to the new Pinehurst station when it opens, or other routing that overlaps lines along Bothell Way to allow riders to make transfers between lines at the same bus stop. Children, seniors, and people with disabilities or grocery carts should not be asked to cross busy thoroughfares in the dark or the rain simply to continue their transit trips in the same direction.

Thank you for your consideration of this proposal, and for your work to continue to connect our communities together.

Sincerely,

[Signatures]