



**Memorandum**

**DATE:** January 30, 2008

**TO:** Planning Commission

**FROM:** Alicia McIntire, Aurora Corridor Planner

**RE:** Draft Planning Commission Resolution Regarding Bus Rapid Transit Service on SR 99

On September 19, 2007, the Planning Commission voted to transmit a resolution regarding bus rapid transit (BRT) service on SR 99 to the City Council. This resolution promotes a single, integrated continuous BRT system along the Aurora Avenue/State Route (SR) 99 corridor.

Currently, Community Transit and Metro are planning to provide BRT service on SR 99 in Snohomish and King Counties, respectively. These will be separate, independent services, with different operational procedures and the timeline for implementation of the services by each agency is different. Community Transit intends to begin BRT operation on SR 99 in December 2008, while Metro will not begin BRT service on Aurora until 2013. The City's Comprehensive Plan currently contains policy language addressing this issue. Policy T24 states "Work with all transit providers to support 'seamless' service into Shoreline across the county lines and through to major destinations".

At the February 7, 2008 Planning Commission, representatives from Metro, Community Transit and Sound Transit will be in attendance to discuss their roles as service providers on the corridor, future plans for service along SR 99 and answer questions from the Planning Commission. Staff believes that this dialogue will provide an opportunity for the Planning Commission to better understand the planning and implementation process of each transit provider for the BRT system and for the transit providers to better understand the transit needs of the City of Shoreline. Staff believes that this dialogue may also result in a resolution to the City Council that is supported by the Planning Commission as well as the transit providers.

If you have specific questions for the transit providers, please submit them to me by 5:00 pm, Monday, February 4. You may email me at [amcintire@ci.shoreline.wa.us](mailto:amcintire@ci.shoreline.wa.us).

**RESOLUTION NO. \_\_\_\_**

**A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF SHORELINE, WASHINGTON,  
PROMOTING A SINGLE, INTEGRATED, CONTINUOUS BUS RAPID TRANSIT  
SYSTEM ALONG THE AURORA AVENUE/STATE ROUTE (SR) 99 CORRIDOR**

WHEREAS, residents of the City of Shoreline patronize businesses all along the Aurora Avenue/SR 99 corridor, including businesses in King and Snohomish Counties and in the cities of Shoreline, Seattle, Edmonds, Mountlake Terrace, and Lynnwood; and

WHEREAS, businesses in the City of Shoreline serve customers in King and Snohomish Counties and in the cities of Shoreline, Seattle, Edmonds, Lake Forest Park, Mountlake Terrace, Lynnwood, and Woodway; and

WHEREAS, high density residential developments are within walking distance of Aurora Avenue/SR 99 along the entire corridor from Seattle to Everett, including in the City of Shoreline; and

WHEREAS, shops, restaurants and other businesses line the entire Aurora Avenue/SR 99 corridor from Seattle to Everett, including the City of Shoreline; and

WHEREAS, large numbers of people cross the King-Snohomish County line on Aurora Avenue/SR 99 every day in both directions; and

WHEREAS, making transit along the entire Aurora Avenue/SR 99 corridor faster and more convenient will increase transit ridership and decrease single occupant vehicle trips, thereby decreasing traffic congestion, decreasing pollution, and decreasing the region's emissions of greenhouse gases that contribute to global warming; and

WHEREAS, Bus Rapid Transit is a relatively new type of transit system in the region that offers the promise of faster and more frequent service on busy corridors; and

WHEREAS, all residents and businesses located near Aurora Avenue/SR 99 can benefit from a single, integrated, continuous Bus Rapid Transit line along the Aurora Avenue/SR 99 corridor; and

WHEREAS, Community Transit has funding for and is planning a "Swift" Bus Rapid Transit line along the Aurora Avenue/SR 99 corridor between the City of Shoreline and the City of Everett, with a terminus at the Aurora Village Transit Center; and

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WHEREAS, Metro Transit has funding for and is planning a “RapidRide” Bus Rapid Transit line between the City of Shoreline and the City of Seattle with a terminus at the Aurora Village Transit Center; and

WHEREAS, Sound Transit is also charged with providing express bus service in King, Snohomish, and Pierce counties; and

WHEREAS, the current plans for Community Transit and Metro Transit would require all passengers traveling past the Aurora Village Transit Center to transfer buses between the two different systems, creating a significant delay and inconvenience that will decrease ridership; and

WHEREAS, Community Transit and Metro Transit currently plan to use different types of buses and different types of bus stops/bus stations with different curb heights, which would make future integration of the two independent systems difficult; and

WHEREAS, Community Transit has generally focused on service within Snohomish County and Metro Transit has generally focused on service within King County, and this lack of integration across the county line leaves a gap in serving the residents and businesses in communities near the county line; and

WHEREAS, it should be possible for Community Transit, Metro Transit, and Sound Transit to work together to create a single integrated system that allows passengers to make continuous trips on bus rapid transit between any two points along the Aurora Avenue/SR 99 corridor between the cities of Everett and Seattle by resolving differences in system design, funding, and administration. We explicitly ask that this be a single ride system; and

WHEREAS, such an integrated system would offer significantly greater benefits to the residents and businesses in the region than would be offered by two independent systems, giving the City of Shoreline a significant interest in an integrated system; and

WHEREAS, substantial funding for transit comes from taxpayers in the City of Shoreline, giving the City a financial interest in the efficiency of transit systems;

WHEREAS, the Planning Commission recommends that the City Council consider adoption of the following resolution;

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:**

The City of Shoreline City Council recommends that Community Transit, Metro Transit, and Sound Transit work together to create a single, integrated, continuous Bus Rapid Transit system along the Aurora Avenue/SR 99 corridor from Seattle to Everett. These transit agencies are asked to provide service that

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would allow customers to ride on a single bus along the corridor. The Shoreline City Council also directs staff to contact adjacent communities along the corridor to engage them on this matter and any other measures to promote fast and convenient transit service for the benefit for both residents and businesses. This resolution shall be distributed to the transit agencies, neighboring city councils and planning commissions, and state legislators whose districts include the SR 99 corridor.

**ADOPTED BY THE CITY COUNCIL ON xxx.**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Mayor Robert L. Ransom

**ATTEST:**

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Scott Passey  
City Clerk

**DRAFT**