

PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, access to mobility is a fundamental part of health and community connection, allowing King County residents and visitors to reach education and employment opportunities, essential services, shopping, and recreation; and

WHEREAS, AAA estimates the the average cost of owning and operating a new vehicle in 2023 has increased to an annual expense of \$12,182 or a monthly cost of \$1,015, meaning many people cannot afford the cost of a car; and

WHEREAS, transportation represents the largest source of greenhouse gas emissions in the United States, and to meet the ambitious King County Strategic Climate Action Plan's greenhouse gas reduction goals adopted by the Council, we must immediately reduce emissions in the transportation sector; and

WHEREAS, vehicles create tire dust that can enter watersheds, harming people and wildlife, particularly Coho salmon that are a vital food source to our endangered southern resident orcas; and

WHEREAS, car-dependent land uses and freeway expansions have harmed neighborhoods historically home to communities of color, contributing to transportation being an important environmental justice concern; and

WHEREAS, a week without driving can help us understand how we can meet better the needs of Washingtonians, by enhancing transit, biking, and walking solutions as key strategies; and

WHEREAS, understanding how to improve public transportation and make our streets safer and more accessible ensures that we meet the needs of people who cannot drive because of disabilities; and

WHEREAS, Disability Rights Washington has organized a week without driving for three years, transforming it into a national challenge for elected leaders, advocates, and individuals to understand the barriers for non-drivers;

NOW, THEREFORE, we, the Metropolitan King County Council, proclaim October 2 to 8, 2023, as

WEEK WITHOUT DRIVING

in King County and call upon individuals, community groups, businesses, and elected officials to participate in the Week Without Driving Challenge to understand how our transportation system can meet better the needs of county residents who are non-drivers, while also benefiting our community and the environment.

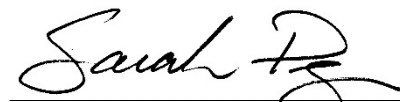
DATED this twenty-sixth day of September, 2023.



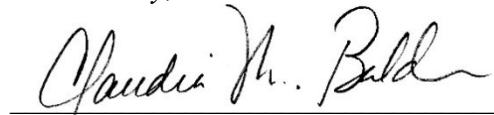
Dave Upthegrove, District Five, Council Chair



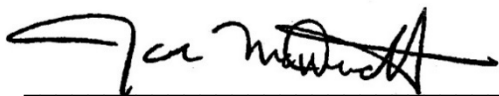
Rod Dembowski, District One



Sarah Perry, District Three



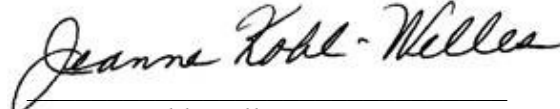
Claudia Balducci, District Six



Joe McDermott, District Eight



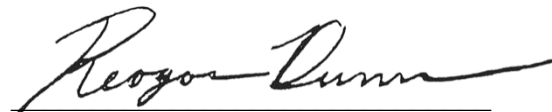
Girmay Zahilay, District Two



Jeanne Kohl-Welles, District Four, Council Vice-Chair



Pete von Reichbauer, District Seven



Reagan Dunn, District Nine, Council Vice-Chair