

A Resolution Supporting Electric Trolley Bus Service

WHEREAS King County Metro is considering replacing Electric Trolley Bus (ETB) service with diesel or diesel-electric hybrid buses based on the results of a flawed audit;

WHEREAS For decades, our taxes have built and maintained a network of overhead ETB wires;

WHEREAS this network constitutes a “fixed guideway” system that brings Metro several million dollars a year in federal funds it wouldn’t get without ETBs;

WHEREAS Metro’s 14 ETB routes comprise about 20% of its ridership;

WHEREAS ETBs have an average lifespan of 18 years versus 12 years for diesels and hybrids;

WHEREAS diesel and hybrid buses run on fossil fuels which are limited in supply and likely to continue to increase in price;

WHEREAS ETBs have virtually zero greenhouse gas emissions;

WHEREAS ETBs are able to climb and accelerate on hills more quickly and quietly than diesel and hybrid buses;

WHEREAS SDOT staff told Seattle City Council in June 2010 that ETBs are 10-14 decibels quieter than diesel and hybrid buses;

WHEREAS the supply and price of hydropower in the Northwest appear more stable than diesel;

WHEREAS When rising diesel costs overwhelmed Metro in 2008, ETBs were cheaper to operate;

WHEREAS new ETBs in use elsewhere have the ability to run for short distances on batteries rather than overhead wires, and low floors that make wheelchair lifts unnecessary;

WHEREAS Metro is already testing two wireless, battery-powered electric buses; and

WHEREAS this is an issue that unites Seattle residents, neighborhoods, and elected leaders at a time when other transportation issues divide us;

Be it hereby resolved by the King County Democrats that Metro should maintain its ETB network rather than replacing it with diesel or hybrid buses,

Be it further resolved that copies of this resolution shall be sent to the King County Executive and all County Council members, the Mayor of Seattle and all City Council members, and the General Manager of Metro Transit.

Adopted 4/26/2011 by the King County Democratic Central Committee

Submitted by Jon Morgan, 43-1849 PCO (jon.morgan.1999@owu.edu)

Passed by the 43rd District Democrats February 2011, and 37th District Democrats April, 2011