

Appendix G – Southeast King County Connectors Project

***KING COUNTY METRO
SOUTHEAST KING COUNTY CONNECTORS PROJECT***

The Southeast King County Connectors project will fund implementation of improved transit service and facilities in an area of King County that has experienced rapid population growth since the year 2000. The project will consist of five elements:

- Route 164 frequency improvements;
- Route 168 extension and frequency improvements;
- Route 149 extension and frequency improvements;
- SR 516 (SE 272nd St) bus stop improvements;
- Park and ride expansion in the SR 169 corridor.

The project will improve service on routes 164 and 168 to every 30 minutes during peak and midday hours on weekdays. These routes currently operate only every 60 minutes, and rank consistently among the top five routes for productivity in South King County. The project will also extend Route 168 from its current terminal in Covington to Maple Valley on weekends, supporting the extended weekday service that was implemented in September 2009. This 3-mile extension will provide east-west service seven days a week on SR 516 connecting Maple Valley to Covington and Kent.

The project will improve the frequency of Route 149 to every 90 minutes during midday hours on weekdays from every 120 minutes at present. The project will extend Route 149 south from its current terminal in Black Diamond to Enumclaw. This change will directly link four suburban cities – Renton, Maple Valley, Black Diamond, and Enumclaw - and rural areas along the SR 169.

The project will provide funding for up to 125 new leased park and ride spaces in the Maple Valley or Black Diamond area along the SR 169 corridor. This will provide additional commuter parking to supplement the Maple Valley Park and Ride lot, which is 79% full on a daily basis but which has been at capacity as recently as 2008. Metro staff have identified potential locations for leased park and ride spaces including churches near SE 232nd and SE 263rd Streets, vacant lots at SE 216th Place and SE Wax Road, and retail/commercial lots at Wilderness Village (SE 237th Street) and Four Corners Square/Safeway Plaza in the vicinity of the SR-169/SR516 intersection. Staff will pursue agreements for parking spaces at some or all of these locations depending on the number and availability of spaces.

The project will provide new and improved bus stops at five intersections along SR 516 between Covington and Maple Valley. Improvements will be made along SR 516 at the intersections of SE 213th Street, Witte Road SE/SE 223rd Pl., 228th Ave. SE, 235th Ave. SE, and Maple Valley Highway (SR 169). Four new bus stops will be added at Witte Road and 235th Ave. SE. New landing pads will be constructed at five stops to provide a waiting area and ensure that the stops are ADA-accessible. New bus pullouts will be constructed or extended at four stops where the current road layout prevents the bus from stopping.