

Date: May 22, 2023
To: KC Council's Local Services and Land-Use (LS & L-U) Committee
Subject: Proposed Ordinance 2022-0309

Chair Councilwoman Perry and LS & L-U Committee Members,

The Joint Team of Rural Area UACs / UAAs / Organizations **[*]** request you consider its comments herein as *Written Testimony* for your May 23 meeting at which the subject Ordinance will be discussed. The subject Ordinance would recommend approval of a new Transportation Concurrency Map. Under the proposed map, all thirteen travel sheds would receive a "Pass" rating.

The King County Comprehensive Plan calls for the Concurrency system to use travel sheds to evaluate travel time, and establishes Level of Service (LOS) standards. But the system enacted has trivialized the evaluation of concurrency by setting up measurement criteria that allow every County unincorporated area road to "Pass." In fact, the County's Concurrency system does not do what the Growth Management Act (GMA) intended in evaluating and ensuring transportation systems are adequate and concurrent as development proceeds.

The committee is no doubt aware that numerous rural county arterials are congested and overwhelmed by daily commuter flows between new homes in outlying cities on the fringe of the Urban Growth Boundary (UGB) and jobs in the urban core. With more to come as growth continues. King County's Unincorporated Area residents (primarily those in the Rural Area) are the ones who suffer the consequences. In peak commuter hours they cannot get in and out of their neighborhoods or their own driveways without serious delays that signify to traffic engineers a failing LOS for those local-access movements—not to mention accident dangers, traffic noise, and other impacts of excess traffic through rural/unincorporated neighborhoods. The current system fails to serve rural/unincorporated residents and only benefits commuters between cities – the very thing GMA sought to curtail !

Rather than recommending to adopt this *new* Concurrency Map, we believe the committee should look into the County's flawed Concurrency system. We strongly suggest the committee recommend the full Council call on the Executive to have the DLS Roads Division *re-evaluate* its Concurrency system so as to make it GMA compliant and one which serves the residents and businesses of unincorporated King County. We would like to participate, in some fashion, on any advisory committee created for such an effort.

Thank you.

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Approved by: **[*]** Enumclaw Plateau Community Association (EPCA), Friends of Sammamish Valley (FoSV), Greater Maple Valley Unincorporated Area Council (GMVUAC), Green River Coalition (GRC), Green Valley/Lake Holm Association (GV/LHA), Hollywood Hill Association (HHA), Soos Creek Area Response (SCAR), Upper Bear Creek Unincorporated Area Council (UBCUAC), and Vashon-Maury Island Community Council (VMCC)