



SEATTLE CITY COUNCIL

April 25, 2016

Peter Rogoff, Director
Sound Transit
401 S. Jackson St.
Seattle, WA 98104

Dear Director Rogoff,

Thank you for presenting the draft Sound Transit 3 (ST3) package to Council on April 4, 2016. The Seattle City Council will be considering a resolution in May to formally express our preferences on the ST3 package that will ultimately go to voters. In preparation for that resolution, we have some questions we ask that you address so that we can work toward supporting a project that our constituents will be excited about and that works within the other ST constraints.

West Seattle Alignment:

- In advance of formal study, we've regularly been asked about consideration of tunneling in the West Seattle alignment. In developing the draft plan, was tunneling on the West Seattle portion of the alignment (through Genesee Hill to the West Seattle Junction) considered or priced?
 - If tunneling was considered, what is the cost difference from the proposal in the draft plan?
 - If tunneling was screened out, what considerations led to that decision?
- We have also heard comments on the fate of the Delridge option listed as a Candidate Project in December 2015. Could you explain the rationale for not including the option in the draft ST3 package? Would a Delridge option still be eligible as a candidate project if ST3 were to pass with the current language?

Ballard Alignment:

- We understand that for cost assumptions the draft alignment in the ST3 proposal runs in a mixture of elevated and at grade right of way along 15th Ave. We know there are trade-offs in cost, speed of construction, and speed and reliability of performance to be considered under any alignment scenario. Could you provide an estimate about the cost implications, project delivery impacts, and any other tradeoffs from an alignment that ran west of 15th and east of the current BNSF line?
- Could you also provide an estimate of the cost implications, project delivery impacts, and any other tradeoffs from a tunnel alignment under the canal?

An equal opportunity employer

600 Fourth Avenue, Floor 2 | PO Box 34025, Seattle | Washington 98124-4025

Phone (206) 684-8804 Fax (206) 684-8587 TTY (206) 233-0025

Email council@seattle.gov



SEATTLE CITY COUNCIL

- If the city wants to support an alignment that is west of 15th Ave and crosses under the canal, what are actions the city could take to make this alignment more likely?

Construction schedules:

- We would all like to see the timelines accelerated for construction of the Ballard and West Seattle lines in particular. Three areas are often mentioned that impact time of delivery. We'd like your thoughts on what the city can do in each of the areas to streamline the process and accelerate construction:
 - Design and outreach: Are there ways the city could partner with ST to accelerate and streamline this process?
 - Permitting: Can you provide some suggestions about ways the city could streamline its permitting process to create more certainty for ST and accelerate construction?
 - Financing: We understand that debt coverage ratio rules within ST are one constraint. Are there ways the city could use its bonding capacity to accelerate the funding of these projects in a way that would accelerate the completion dates? Are there other ways the city could contribute financially to these projects to accelerate construction?
- Beyond the items mentioned above, are there any additional steps that Sound Transit or the City can take to accelerate construction timelines?

Graham Street Infill Station:

- It appears in the delivery schedule very late in the timeline. Is this merely a financing challenge or are there other constraints that push it out? What would it take to make this an "Early win" project?

NE 130th Street Station:

- The ridership projections for the NE 130th Street Station assume current land use patterns. The City anticipates adding zoning capacity in the North Seattle neighborhoods of Bitter Lake and Lake City, and is considering adding an urban village at NE 130th Street and I-5. How would those land use changes affect the ridership model?
- We understand that the NE 130th Street station was included as a provisional station in the Federal Transit Administration's Lynnwood Link Extension Record of Decision dated July 2015 on pages 2, 4, 5 and 7 as follows: "The project includes infrastructure to support a potential future elevated station at NE 130th Street." Can you please outline what steps the Sound Transit board and/or the Federal Transit Administration would



SEATTLE CITY COUNCIL

need to take to remove the provisional distinction from the Record of Decision and make the 130th station permanent?

- How soon after Lynnwood Link opens would it be possible to add NE 130th as an infill station?
- Would adding a NE 130th St station after the completion of Lynnwood Link result in closures to the light rail spine?
- What would be the relative cost differential of constructing the NE 130th Street station during Lynnwood Link compared to adding a station after the Lynnwood Link project is completed?

Ballard Sounder Station:

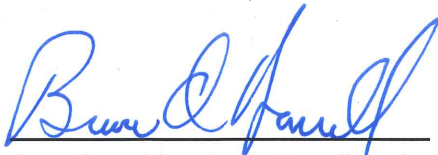
- This is a station that has been discussed for a number of years. Will you provide some analysis on the trade-offs of making this station a reality?

C and D line improvements and Madison BRT:

- We appreciate these early investments in infrastructure to support bus service. Please provide some specifics as to the dollar amount committed to and the projects or project types that could be funded through this line item.

Thank you for attention to these questions. In preparation for our Resolution, we would appreciate a response by Monday, May 2nd, 2016, and invite you or your representatives to discuss your responses further at the Sustainability and Transportation Committee on Tuesday, May 3rd, 2016. We may also have additional questions after the public meetings later this week in West Seattle and Downtown Seattle. We greatly appreciate your time and consideration.


Best,



Council President Bruce Harrell



Councilmember Sally Bagshaw



Councilmember Tim Burgess



Councilmember Lisa Herbold



SEATTLE CITY COUNCIL

Councilmember M. Lorena González

Councilmember Debra Juarez

Councilmember Kshama Sawant

Councilmember Rob Johnson

Councilmember Mike O'Brien