



January 11, 2024

Ramiro Chavez
Public Works Director
City of Tacoma
747 Market Street, Room 408
Tacoma, WA 98402

Subject: Letter of Concurrence regarding the implementation of the proposed South Tacoma Station Access Improvements Project

Dear Mr. Chavez:

The purpose of this letter of concurrence is to establish a framework to implement preliminary engineering, final design, and construction of the improvements proposed as part of the South Tacoma Station Access Improvements Project (Project). A portion of the proposed improvements are located in City of Tacoma right-of-way. The City of Tacoma (City) has agreed in principle to complete preliminary engineering, final design, and construction of improvements in the right-of-way. This letter of concurrence (LOC) will document proposed improvements the City would implement and a process for how Sound Transit and the City will work together to complete the future phases of the Project.

Background

The South Tacoma Station Access Improvements Project is part of the voter approved Sound Transit 2 plan to invest in non-motorized and parking access improvements to the South Tacoma Sounder Station. Sound Transit initiated the Project in January 2021.

During Phase 1 – Alternatives Analysis, Sound Transit in collaboration with City of Tacoma, Pierce Transit, Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) and Pierce County, assessed current conditions for walking, rolling, and taking transit to and from South Tacoma Station. The assessment identified potential improvements to enhance access from the surrounding neighborhoods to the station. At the conclusion of the Phase 1, two groups of improvements were identified by the Sound Transit Board for further study:

- Priority 1 (higher performing) – these improvements scored high on the 3 key criteria with a focus on providing connections to underserved communities
- Priority 2 (middle-performing) – these improvements scored high on at least 2 of the key criteria with a focus on providing connections to underserved communities

During Phase 2 – Conceptual Engineering and Environmental, in collaboration with the City, Priority 1 and Priority 2 improvements are being further designed and then

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evaluated under the State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA) with Sound Transit as the lead agency. A conceptual cost estimate of the improvements will also be developed during this Phase based on a conceptual level of design. At the conclusion of Phase 2, the Sound Transit Board of Directors will select the project to be built, identifying the set of improvements to design and construct.

Proposed Improvements

Appendix A identifies the proximate location of the proposed improvements currently under study. There are a mix of improvements located in City right-of-way, as well as, in and adjacent to Sound Transit right-of-way. Table 1 identifies proposed improvements in the City of right-of-way which would be delivered by the City of Tacoma. All other improvements identified in Appendix A would be delivered by Sound Transit. Additional design and cost estimating details are needed to inform the decision on which improvements to build. At the conclusion of Phase 2, the Sound Transit Board will select improvements based on affordability, and the input and analysis from Sound Transit staff, City staff, Tacoma City Council, Tacoma community, and Sounder riders.

Table 1: List of Proposed Improvements to be delivered by the City

Improvement	Project Elements	Improvement Priority	Notes
<p>S. 60th St. nonmotorized improvements (between S. Adams St. and S. Puget Sound Ave.)</p>	<p>Nonmotorized improvements on S. 60th St. between S. Adams St. and S. Puget Sound Ave. include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Install “protected” bike lanes on the north side of S. 60th St. between S. Adams St. and South Tacoma Way (bike lanes transition to a bike boulevard from South Tacoma Way to Puget Sound Ave. S.) • Upgrade intersection crossing at S. 60th St. and South Tacoma Way by providing a signalized pedestrian and bike crossing (which may require a full traffic signal). • Upgrade intersection crossing at S. 60th St. and Puget Sound Ave. S. by providing pedestrian and bicycle safety treatments. 	<p>Priority 1</p>	<p>Sound Transit will construct crossing improvements on S. 60th St. and the South Tacoma Station</p>
<p>S. 58th St. nonmotorized improvements (between S. Washington St. and S. Fife St.)</p>	<p>Nonmotorized improvements on S. 58th St. between S. Washington St. and S. Fife St. include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Install sidewalks, curb ramps and protected bike lanes from S. Washington St. to South Tacoma Way. • Improve bicycle connections through the intersection of S. 58th St. and South Tacoma Way by striping the east and westbound bicycle pathways. • Improve pedestrian and bicycle connections through the intersection of S. 58th St. and S. Puget Sound Ave. by 	<p>Priority 1</p>	

	<p>installing traffic calming, crosswalks, and pedestrian/bike activated signal.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide ADA improvements to the sidewalk, curb ramps, and/or driveway approaches on S. 58th St. between South Tacoma Way and S. Lawrence St. • Construct sidewalks, curb ramps, ADA improvements, and bike boulevard improvements from S. Lawrence St. to S. Fife St. • Enhance bike lanes on S. Puget Sound Ave. between S. 54th St. and S. 58th St. including bicycle detection at intersection of S. 56th St. and S. Puget Sound Ave. • Provide curb bulb outs at S. 54th St. and S. Puget Sound Ave. 		
Walking, rolling and biking path north of SERA Campus	Provide a connection from S. 56 th St. bike lanes (which end just west of S. Tyler St.) to SERA Campus and South Tacoma Sounder Station.	Priority 1	Improvements made on SERA Campus would be done by Metro Parks Tacoma and/or City of Tacoma
S. Adams St. nonmotorized improvements (between S. 66 th St. and S. 56 th St.)	<p>Nonmotorized improvements on S. Adams St. between S. 56th St. and S. 66th St. include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Construct two-way “protected” bikeway in street from S. 66th St. to the northern end of the southern SERA Campus parking lot. Transition the two-way “protected” bikeway and sidewalk onto a shared use path. The shared use path will extend from the southern SERA Campus parking lot to S. 58th St. (however the northern extent may change depending on the final design of the walking, biking, and rolling connection north of SERA Campus project). • Complete sidewalks and upgrade curb ramps on S. Adams St. from S. 66th St. to S. 56th St. 	Priority 1	Improvements made on SERA Campus would be done by Metro Parks Tacoma and/or City of Tacoma. Pierce Transit would make the bus stop improvements

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Install a pedestrian and bicycle crosswalk at S. Adams St. and S. 60th St. • Install enhanced pedestrian crossing on S. 66th St. at the intersection with S. Adams St. including crosswalks and pedestrian/bike activated signal. • Upgrading the bus stops (serving Pierce Transit Route 53) at the intersection of S. 66th St. and S. Adams St. 		
S. Fife St. bicycle boulevard (between S. 48 th St. to S. 74 th St.)	Provide a bicycle boulevard (sharrows, traffic calming, and improved crossings) along S. Fife St. from S. 74 th St. to S. 48 th St. and on S. 48 th St. to S. Oakes St.	Priority 1	
Station Area Improvements	<p>Nonmotorized improvements around the station include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Complete curb ramp and sidewalk improvements at spot locations within a half-mile of the station. • Add bike detection and LPI/TSP to priority streets. • Improving station wayfinding, such as posting signs on South Tacoma Way. • Install street lighting on priority streets. 	Priority 1	
Bike Facilities	<p>Install bike facilities on the following streets:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “Protected” bike lanes on S. Pine St. between Center St. and S. 47th St. (Priority 1) • Add bicycle facilities on Sprague Ave. between South Tacoma Way and S. 37th St. and bike lanes west on S. 37th St. to S. Steele St. (Priority 1) • Bike lanes on 35th St. between S. Pine St. and S. Sprague Ave. (Priority 1) • Construct “protected” bike lanes on S. 66th St between S. Orchard St. and S. Cheyenne St. and upgrade existing bike lanes to “protected” bike lanes between S. Tyler St. and South Tacoma Way. Convert westbound sharrow between South Tacoma Way and S. Puget Sound Ave. to a bike lane. (Priority 2) • Upgrade existing bike lanes to “protected” bike lanes on S. Tyler St. between S. Wright Ave. and S. 74th St. (Priority 2) 	Priority 1 and 2	

S. Washington St. Sidewalks	Install sidewalks on the west side of S. Washington St. from S. 56 th St. to S. 58 th St.	Priority 2	
S. 60 th St. nonmotorized improvements (between S. Puget Sound Ave. and S. Prospect St.)	Nonmotorized improvements on S. 60 th St. between S. Puget Sound Ave. and S. Prospect St. include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Install sidewalks, curbs ramps, ADA improvements, traffic calming, and bike boulevard treatments on both sides of S. 60th St. 	Priority 2	
S. 45 th St. and S. Union Ave. bicycle boulevard (between S. Lawrence St. to S. 47 th St. and South Tacoma Way)	Provide a bicycle boulevard (sharrows) along S. 45 th St. and S. Union St. from S. Lawrence St. to the Water Flume Line Trail at S. 47 th St. and South Tacoma Way. Add a bike ramp and short sidewalk linkage to connect to the South Tacoma Way/S 47 th St. crossing to the Water Flume Line Trail.	Priority 2	

Delivery Framework

Through this Letter of Concurrence, the City of Tacoma has indicated their willingness to conduct all related activities to complete preliminary engineering, design, and construction, and operate and, except where the facility is owned or operated by another agency, to own and maintain the potential improvements identified in Table 1 in exchange for a capped contribution from Sound Transit. Sound Transit and the City of Tacoma will develop an agreement that confirms the scope and cost for the proposed improvements; the agreement will further detail the timing of funds delivered to the City and agreed schedule for delivery. The following key points of the future funding agreement include:

- Sound Transit is the SEPA Lead and will, with the City’s review, complete the environmental review of all improvements included in Phase 2 and the City will rely on Sound Transit’s threshold determination under SEPA.
- The City of Tacoma is the authority for the right-of-way and will obtain all permits needed to construct the approved improvements identified in the project agreement.
- Funding for each improvement will include the cost for administration, ROW, acquisition, utility relocation (if needed), preliminary engineering, final design, construction, community engagement and contingency.
- The City of Tacoma will be responsible for all operations and maintenance of the capitalized assets constructed in the City right-of-way, not including Sound Transit, Pierce Transit, or private utility improvements.
- For improvements that Sound Transit will complete in City right-of-way, Sound Transit and the City will work collaboratively to secure all necessary City approvals. Sound Transit will obtain all permits necessary for construction.
- Sound Transit and the City of Tacoma will collaborate on a timeline for delivery of improvements, understanding that the City of Tacoma will need to spread the improvement construction over multiple years.
- City of Tacoma will commit to ensuring a percentage of work is contracted with small and minority owned businesses.

- City of Tacoma will continue to engage residents in the completion of the improvements in City right-of-way.

During Phase 2, Sound Transit with input from the City of Tacoma, will design and engineer to about a 10% level for all Priority 1 and 2 improvements. Cost estimates for the improvements will be based on this level of design and considers future buildout. This information will help inform which improvements the Sound Transit Board will select to build. Additionally, toward the conclusion of Phase 2, Sound Transit and City of Tacoma will work collaboratively to develop and execute agreements as appropriate to deliver the improvements selected for implementation in accordance with South Transit Board and Tacoma City Council direction. Any agreement will have to be approved by the Sound Transit Board and Tacoma City Council. A future agreement would likely include the following sections:

- Improvement Location and Elements
- Project Scope and Schedule
- Project budgeting and distribution of project funds including invoicing
- Design and Construction Detail
- Dispute Resolution
- Liability, Indemnification

Some additional sections may be necessary and will be determined at the time of the creation of the agreement.

Next Steps

Sound Transit, in collaboration with City of Tacoma, will continue with the conceptual design and cost estimating of the identified improvements and then conduct an environmental evaluation. Sound Transit conducted an internal project delivery workshop and formalized the approach, outlined in this letter, to have the City deliver the potential improvements identified in Table 1. Staff can then begin the development of a formal agreement with the goal of executing the agreement after the conclusion of Phase 2 and a decision by the ST Board on the project to be built.

Sincerely,

Chelsea Levy

Digitally signed by Chelsea Levy
Date: 2024.02.21 12:10:07
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Chelsey Levy
Deputy Executive Director, Office of Capital Project Development
Enclosure: Document Title

I agree with this Letter of Concurrence.

DocuSigned by:

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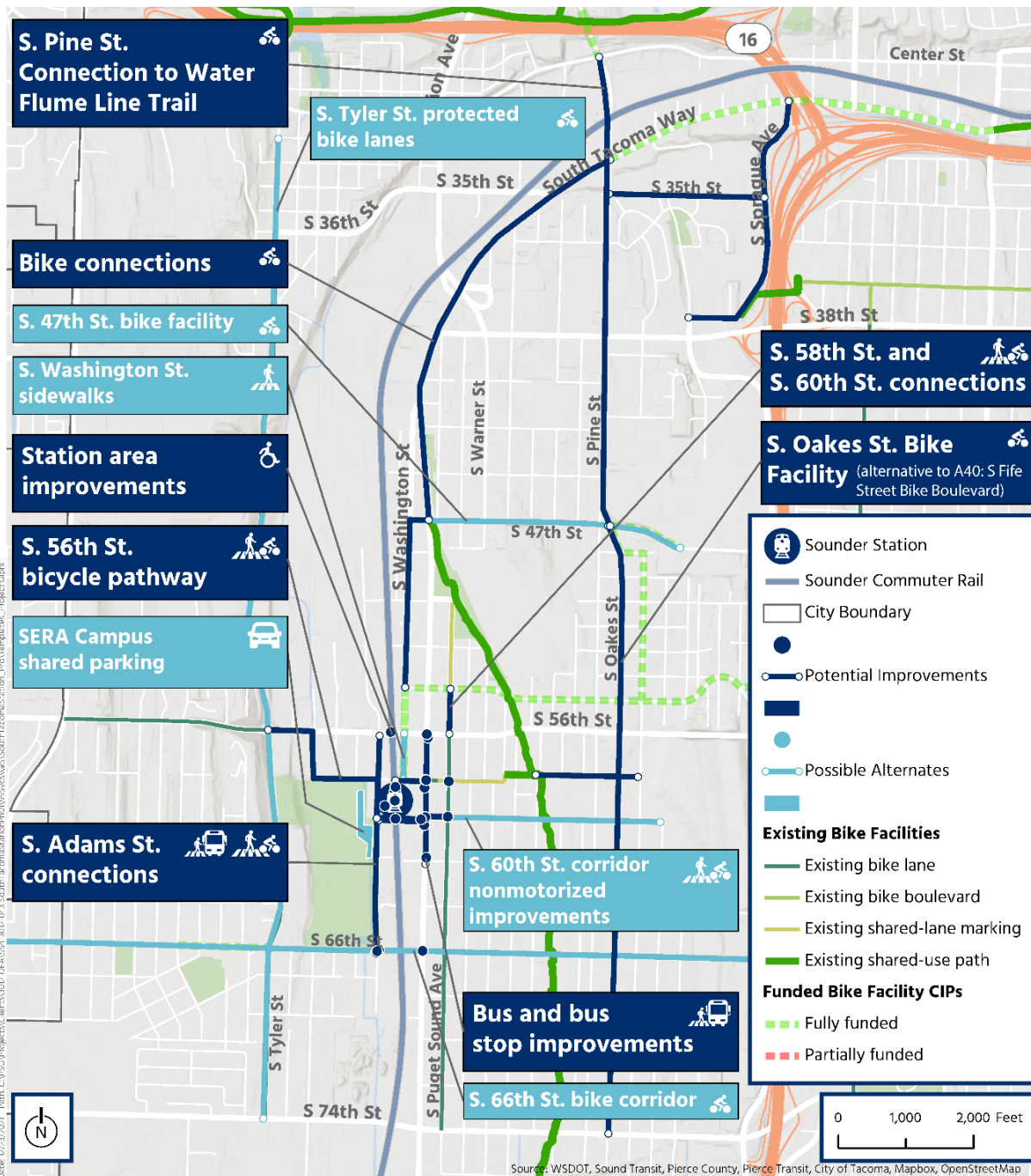
Ramiro A. Chavez, P.E. PMP
Public Works Director/City Engineer
City of Tacoma

cc:

Melissa Flores Saxe, Sound Transit HCT Development Director
Zac Eskenazi, Sound Transit HCT Development Manager
Jennifer Kammerzell, City of Tacoma Assistant Transportation Manager
Liz Kaster, City of Tacoma Principal Transportation Planner

Appendix A – Proximate Location of Proposed Improvements

IMPROVEMENTS RECOMMENDED FOR STUDY IN PHASE 2 South Tacoma Station



Sounder South Station Access Improvements

