



May 3, 2016

Dow Constantine, Chair
Sound Transit Board of Directors
401 S Jackson Street
Seattle, WA 98104

Re: Sound Transit 3 Draft Proposal

Chair Constantine,

First I would like to sincerely thank the board of Sound Transit for the opportunity to comment on the proposed Sound Transit 3 (ST3) draft proposal. The proposed draft includes many items the City of Tacoma strongly supports and was pleased to see included, such as the expansion of regional light rail from the City of Federal Way to Tacoma Dome Station, Light Link Rail from downtown to the western parts of the city, as well as bus capital enhancements along Pacific Avenue, and the Sounder Extension from the City of Lakewood to the City of DuPont.

As our community continues to grow, transportation issues will continue to play a key role in the city's long term success. We share Sound Transit's commitment to linking the north and south Sound areas and fulfilling the dream of moving people more efficiently throughout the region with a unified plan.

We would also like to offer Sound Transit some considerations we would like to see moving forward and that would enhance their current draft.

Deliver Central LINK Extension Sooner: Work creatively with partners to deliver Central Link Light Rail to Tacoma Dome Station by 2026. We understand that 2026 may be prior to the completion of the ST3 expansion to City of Federal Way, so bringing further expansion to the City of Tacoma by 2026 is especially ambitious, but we encourage Sound Transit to work with all our regional partners to expedite light rail expansion throughout the region. This will require creativity to speed up financing and permitting, but we believe it is doable. Tax payers and commuters stuck in traffic are demanding transit options as soon as possible and we must do everything we can to deliver the program more quickly. Moreover, the City of Tacoma is prepared to do everything within its power to assist Sound Transit in speeding up the permit process, while balancing the proper review, public engagement and environmental processes.

Sounder Commuter Rail Improvements: The City of Tacoma needs more specifics included about the expanded Sounder Commuter rail service. The draft as proposed is vague as to

improving commuter rail service. The City of Tacoma would like to see more details as to what those improvements may be, including specific numbers that reflect any proposed increase in the number of trains running both ways, expansion of hours they run, or increased frequency. South Sound commuters need more frequent trains during rush hours, more trains running in both directions and span of service extended from 6:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. at night or later to serve more riders with more reliable, frequent commuter options. Sounder Commuter Rail will be a faster way for commuters to get from the City of Tacoma to the City of Seattle compared to Link Light Rail and therefore, we must deliver more frequent service and a greater span of service.

High-Capacity Transit Study from Tacoma Dome Station to Tacoma Mall Regional Growth Center: The City of Tacoma requests Sound Transit to fund a study in preparation for future expansions which includes Light Rail expansion from Tacoma Dome Station to the Tacoma Mall Regional Growth Center. Linking the various areas of our city to regional transit centers is a high priority as it will enable our citizens to use the services of the broader Sound Transit expansion – connecting our most densely populated centers with high-capacity transit.

Express Bus Service Continuation & Enhancement: The City of Tacoma would like Sound Transit to reconsider the assumption that rapid bus service will be discontinued when the link is completed. Bus rapid transit investments are critical in the beginning phases of ST3, and we look forward to the immediate positive effect they will have on the community. With the travel time to the City of Seattle via central link being estimated at 60-75 minutes, express bus service may continue to be the quickest option for commuters and therefore continue to play a critical role even after light rail is connected to the Tacoma Dome Station.

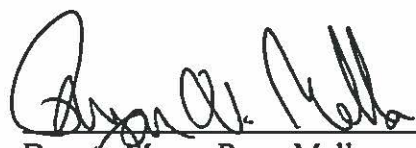
Tacoma Link Expansion Corridor Study: While the draft proposal has already identified an expansion of the Tacoma Link to Tacoma Community College from the Hilltop, we believe funding an additional corridor study to connect additional neighborhoods with the Tacoma Link would promote efforts to provide a local match in advance of funding the project in future Sound Transit funding cycles.

We would like to respectfully request Sound Transit to consider these amendments in moving forward with the ST3 draft proposal, and we look forward to continuing to work with Sound Transit and engage in a mutually beneficial discourse as we work together to improve transportation across our region.

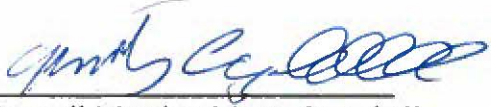
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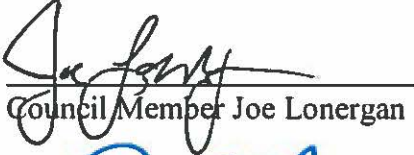
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