



City of Tacoma  
Planning Commission

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*(Architecture, Historic Preservation,  
Urban Design position - vacant)*

May 6, 2026

Tacoma Planning Commission  
747 Market Street  
Tacoma, WA 98402

Sound Transit  
401 S. Jackson St.  
Seattle, WA 98104

RE: Sound Transit Enterprise Initiative

Chair Sommers,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Sound Transit Enterprise Initiative. The Tacoma Planning Commission wishes to support specific project elements in the Sound Transit 3 (ST3) program for Pierce County that advance the City's growth management objectives.

### Background

The City of Tacoma recently updated its Comprehensive Plan under the Growth Management Act. The plan accommodates 60,000 new housing units, 137,000 residents, and 94,000 jobs by 2050. This growth is centered in designated Regional Growth Centers and focuses on compact, walkable, transit-oriented "15-minute neighborhoods." These goals rely on core regional transit investments, including ST3. The City has aligned zoning, housing density, and parking policies to support high-capacity transit and to develop our major corridors such as Pacific Avenue, 6th Avenue, and South 19th Street. Consistent with the One Tacoma Plan, we are actively engaging with Sound Transit to ensure its capital plans match the City's Frequent Transit Network (FTN).

### Recommendations

As the second largest city in Puget Sound and a critical economic and trading hub for our region, Tacoma should be prioritized for ST3 investments, particularly given that the city and Pierce County have been historically underserved by Sound Transit. The Tacoma Planning Commission encourages the Sound Transit Board of Directors to support the following modified ST3 investments to deliver on transit commitments made by the regional transit authority (RTA) and to support growth management efforts in the Pierce County Subarea:

### PRIORITY PROJECTS

1. **Tacoma Dome Light Rail (TDLE):** Complete the Regional Light Rail Spine to Tacoma Dome Station from Downtown Federal Way by 2035, including the

station at Portland Avenue. This project is paramount for Pierce County and is a foundational RTA investment.

2. **T Line Frequency and Reliability:** Address single track constraints on T Line with a State of Good Repair<sup>1</sup> project to enable reliable and flexible light rail operations at design capacity. This will enable existing resources to increase service from 5 to 6+ trains per hour, supporting a vision of seamless T Line to 1 Line transfers. The project advances transit equity by matching rail frequencies seen elsewhere in the Sound Transit District and resolving unplanned service reductions from T Line system testing.
3. **Sounder:** Add more S-Line trips on weekdays and on weekends, particularly during peak periods, and adopt the planning framework that Sounder shall fill the legacy Seattle Express role upon the deletion of ST Express 59X routes after TDLE opens.

## EXPANDED PLANNING FOR THE FUTURE

4. **Tacoma Mall:** Retain the planned High-Capacity Transit study connecting Downtown Tacoma to the Tacoma Mall Regional Growth Center, including the Lincoln and South Tacoma mixed use centers. This should be conducted in partnership with the City and Pierce Transit and examine the merit of a 1 Line, T Line, or fully-integrated light rail system expansion to the Mall.
5. **T Line TCC:** In collaboration with the City and Pierce Transit, develop a high-capacity transit plan for future service between Tacoma Dome and TCC. This includes an Alternatives Analysis for a T Line expansion, as well as potential Stride or Stream BRT routes to precede such an investment.
6. **Rail Options for Dupont/JBLM:** Advance design for rail improvements between Dupont and Tacoma Dome and leverage federal funds for construction. The agency should also evaluate a more robust rail service schedule for this corridor.

## DEFERRED PROJECTS

7. **Parking:** Defer new structured parking projects at stations regionwide; provided that the funding for Pierce County projects remains in the Pierce County Subarea and is used to either advance planned rail services or to improve multimodal access to feed passengers to regional light rail stations.

The Tacoma Planning Commission remains committed to supporting regional transit investments that align with our local growth goals. We look forward to working closely with Sound Transit to ensure these critical projects are successfully implemented.

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<sup>1</sup>49 CFR 625.17(a) “A capital asset is in a state of good repair if it is in a condition sufficient for the asset to operate at a full level of performance.”

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Robb Krehbiel". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Robb" being more prominent than the last name "Krehbiel".

Robb Krehbiel  
Chair, Tacoma Planning Commission

cc. Mayor Ibsen  
City of Tacoma IPS Committee  
City of Tacoma Transportation Commission  
City of Tacoma Climate and Sustainability Commission