

9/2/2021 Executive Committee Meeting
Written Public Comment Submissions

Submissions

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This comment was submitted in letter form, which is attached to the end of this document.



To: Sound Transit Board members

From: [West Seattle SkyLink Team](#)

Date: September 2, 2021

Thank you again for this opportunity to speak to the Sound Transit Board and staff. Our comments today relate to the environmental impact of your realignment decisions.

Most people we've talked with have expressed strong concerns about climate change. Last week we asked how Sound Transit plans to reduce its climate impacts, when realignment delays will defer your carbon reduction goals.

The thousands of tons of concrete used to build light rail guideways – at 150 pounds of carbon per ton, plus the fossil-fueled heavy construction equipment and vehicles, plus the resulting traffic congestion, all contribute to a massive carbon footprint for building the light rail network. We support building that network's spine to reduce even greater impact of personal vehicles. But to connect that spine with local neighborhoods, we ask Sound Transit to consider a high-capacity transit option with a low carbon footprint – aerial gondolas.

A SkyLink aerial gondola system could connect West Seattle to our regional light rail network much sooner than connecting by rail. It would help remove vehicles from congested roadways, and cut greenhouse gas emissions and pollution this decade rather than next.

Thanks to the West Seattle high bridge failure, many parts of West Seattle are now jammed with traffic that is increasing pollution and noise. Light rail construction would compound these consequences by tearing up neighborhoods, removing housing during a housing crisis, closing or interfering with businesses already suffering from the pandemic, removing trees – which accelerates climate change, and causing five-years of construction detours, traffic congestion and other negative environmental effects.

Again, we urge Sound Transit to consider all viable measures to significantly reduce its climate impacts this decade, including construction of a gondola to West Seattle.