

9/10/2020 Executive Committee Meeting  
Public Comment Submissions

Submissions

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## *Sumner Mayor Bill L. Pugh*

Dear Board Members:

Please consider moving forward again with building a parking garage at the Sumner Station. We realize you face difficult decisions due to coronavirus and its impacts on your funding, but we can assure you that the Sumner Station project is a good use of your limited dollars.

As you know, Sumner's station opened March 10, 2001. The existing surface parking lot was full three weeks later. Nineteen years later, nearly to the day, the lot was not full for the first time on a working day due to the State's Stay Home order. However, this anomaly was short-lived, and our region's frantic demand for additional parking steadily returns.

We have been working with Sound Transit to increase access in other ways to expand non-vehicular options. We also have three large multi-family developments underway in Sumner, two within walking distance of the station. Yet, all this work does not replace the fact that demand for vehicular access and parking also continues to skyrocket. Since our station opened, our population has grown 18%, mostly in areas not near the station. More important, the population of Bonney Lake has grown 75%; the population of Orting has grown 113%; Tehaleh was a forest then and is now well on its way to a projected population of 25,000. No matter how work patterns change and no matter how many people we divert to non-vehicular access; the demand for transit parking in Sumner still exists and will only continue to increase.

Parking relief in Sumner was promised with the passage of ST2 in 2008. Despite all the changes in our world, parking demand in Sumner has not changed. Please move forward with a promise that was delivered to voters 12 years ago for demand that began 19 years ago. It is a wise use of limited funding to build access and bring back ridership.

Sincerely,

Mayor Bill L. Pugh