

09/24/2020 Board of Directors Meeting Public Comment Submissions

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Kelsey Mesher, Executive Director of Transportation Choices

Dear Sound Transit Board & Leadership,

We are encouraged to hear you will discuss and take action on Fare Enforcement reforms this fall. Please see attached, the most recent comments from Transportation Choices Coalition, OneAmerica, Seattle and King County Coalition on Homelessness, Transit Riders Union and Puget Sound Sage.

For your records, I have also included a copy of a letter that was delivered in March 2020, prior to the postponement of this discussion (due to COVID). Many stakeholders are supportive of reform, and we look forward to continued work to ensure transit is safe, welcoming and accessible for all riders.

Best,
Kelsey

****** See letters referred to below**

Lakewood Mayor Don Anderson

Good morning:

Attached please find a letter to Sound Transit's Board from Mayor Don Anderson and the City of Lakewood regarding Sound Transit's Capital Program Realignment - recommendations for Paused Actions. A copy was also sent by mail to the Sound Transit Board.

Very Respectfully,

Shannon Kelley-Fong, M.Sc. | Senior Policy Analyst

****** See letter referred to below**

City of SeaTac

Dear Mr. Rogoff and Member of the Board of Directors,

The City of SeaTac is supportive of Resolution R2020-04 which calls for the sale of the surplus properties located near the Angle Lake Light Rail Station. Enclosed is a letter outlining our support.

Please let me know if you have additional questions.

****** See letter referred to below**

Sharon Lee, Executive Director of Low Income Housing Institute

Dear Sound Transit Board,
Please see the attached proposal for the temporary use of your property located at 4336 Roosevelt Way NE, Seattle for shelter and hygiene services.
Thank you,
Sharon

****** See letter referred to below**

Michael Juguilon

Members of the Sound Transit Board,

I wish to register my objection as a citizen to including the S 344th St site in Federal Way as a consideration for your OMF South facility. Selecting this site would eliminate over 250 jobs from the community, evict several small churches, level a neighborhood of affordable homes, and erase the last industrial blue-collar jobs in Federal Way. Our community cannot afford to lose this neighborhood.

Please consider the other sites instead of this one. I am looking forward to light rail service in Federal Way and trust you to make the right decision for our community.

Thank you.

Michael Juguilon

Kathleen Barry Johnson

Dear Members of the Sound Transit Board of Directors:

I wish to reiterate my comment as Executive Director of Historic South Downtown, previously offered to the System Expansion Committee, regarding the realignment process, as it pertains to WSBLE, specifically the proposed Chinatown-International District station.

We appreciate the work ST staff have undertaken to communicate with neighborhood stakeholders during the unprecedented time of pandemic and recession. However, the current conditions have severely limited the ability of stakeholders to engage in any meaningful fashion. With the realignment process ongoing, we hope you will consider the following:

- Now is NOT the time to rush. We know ST staff have the knowledge and expertise to navigate the challenges you face and deliver on your obligations. The communities you serve, particularly those

impacted by decades of disinvestment and language/culture barriers, are not yet ready to partner with you in moving rapidly ahead.

- The issues facing the WSBLE line are too complex to resolve in crisis. We encourage leadership use the “project extension timeline tool” (time and delay) so that agencies can continue the good and necessary planning work while allowing neighborhoods time to regain their capacity to meaningfully participate in this project’s development.
- When considering tools to manage the upcoming budget adjustments—please do not skimp on planning or investment in communities of color. Balance time and money to ensure project outcomes support and reflect the neighborhoods where they reside. Modern history is replete with examples of rushing to do “the right” thing as defined by a narrow perspective, and victimizing marginalized and BIPOC communities. Please do not make the WSBLE project a repeat of [Syracuse 15th Ward, Little Rock AK in the 50’s, Boston, New Haven, or Minneapolis \(about transportation, not policing\), where hastily-planned transportation projects triggered or exacerbated poverty and harmed communities of color.](#)
- The Jackson Hub must be a **regional** transportation priority. The Pioneer Square and C-ID neighborhoods need all agencies (transportation and others) to participate in the planning process that kicked off this past summer. This collaborative planning is about much more than the Sound Transit project. This is about planning together, for all our projects.
- If the WSBLE Draft EIS is published early or mid 2021 as was disclosed at the August ST Board meeting: remember the document will NOT reflect our current condition, and the affected communities will not be able to meaningfully respond to the draft. **If a draft EIS is published in early or mid-2021, it must include a significantly extended review timeline.**
- Sound Transit’s desire as an agency to preserve its ability to pursue cheap money by getting through public review processes quickly (i.e., get to the end of environmental to ensure they can compete for loans) does NOT override our neighborhood’s need to take the time needed to make sure the environment is good for everyone.

Once again, I want to re-state that HSD appreciates the intense complexity of the issues before the ST Board and staff at this time. We urge you to continue to prioritize and center on the needs of the people of color, low income and other members of the impacted communities of south downtown Seattle as you realign and reprioritize.

Kathleen Barry Johnson (she/her)
Executive Director
Historic South Downtown
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[Joe Kunzler](#)

The below is my public comment for 24 Sept. 2020 Sound Transit Board.

Joe Kunzler

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24 September 2020

Dear Sound Transit Board;

First, happy birthday to Boardmember Badassuchi! :-)) Can't wait for Badassuchi to take off of Seattle's hands Amazon with all that sexy light rail in East Link. Second, I'm going to ask Sound Transit as I did the Puget Sound Regional Council (PSRC) Exec Committee today please start drafting and planning for a permanent rule - regardless of when Governor Inslee's proclamations expire - to take public comment via e-mail only unless there is a requirement in Revised Code of Washington (RCW). Hopefully next year after the state legislature has updated the Open Public Meetings Act (OPMA) to allow for permanent virtual meetings. Yes I recognize at some point in 2021, you may be legally required to meet like before. We have to assume Alex Tsimerman will survive this pandemic or a similar attack may be in the works in 2021. We also have some very unhinged people out there. We have a moral obligation to start building defenses *now*. My defense suggestions are as follows:

1. Get "[Tackling Tsimerman](#)" on Kindle. Update coming out mid-November to cover the Covid19 proclamations. You get the update for free on your Kindle app or Kindle device. Lots of tips there.
2. Understand [the following truth](#):
Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg served until her last day. Rep. John Lewis walked the Edmund Pettus Bridge in 2020 after announcing his Stage 4 pancreatic cancer diagnosis. Rep. Elijah Cummings signed subpoenas from his death bed. What do we owe them? EVERYTHING we can give.
3. Stick to e-mail comments and virtual hearings. Stick to the new normal. You aren't in any trouble now. You certainly were pre-Covid19.
4. Work with the state legislature to get the Open Public Meetings Act updated for 2021 conditions.
5. Alex Tsimerman also has gone after PSRC. I suggest you two governing bodies sync defenses against the same threat, using the same policies and enter into a joint defense agreement. Then get your local jurisdictions on board also as additional defense.

Bottom Line: Donald J. Trump is the biggest threat to our republican democracy, but Trump isn't the only one. Alex Tsimerman is also - and it's a heckuva lot easier to stop him, the hate speech and the intimidation of this troubled individual during this pandemic than after. The new normal is working wonders. So let's hold the line and win the peace.

GO SOUND TRANSIT;
Joe A. Kunzler

[Karishama Vahora](#)

Our country is currently facing the worst of the global outbreak, civil unrest, recovering from multiple natural disasters, and is economically failing. The people most impacted are people from our own communities, low-income, elderly, immigrants, refugees, people with pre-existing health conditions, indigenous, people of color, essential workers, LGBTQIA, homeless, and many other groups. The main purpose of public transportation should be to transport all people regardless of their background to their desired destination in an equitable way. But because of our State's history of redlining and discrimination

our systems including our public transit systems have not been accessible to the entire public. That is why I am advocating for Sound Transit to defund the fare-enforcement system. According to PNAS, “9% of people who ride Sound Transit light rail and trains are Black, 22% of riders caught up in the fare-enforcement system over the last four years were Black.” Let's extrapolate the information gathered from the cross-functional groups held in 2019 to continue moving forward in the progress by defunding the fare-enforcement system. The cost to ride sound transit is not equitable for our diverse community so we should also work towards making fares more equitable based on riders' salaries.

*Cities of Bellevue, Bothell, Duvall, Lynnwood, Tukwila, & State
Representative Davina Duerr*

Good afternoon,

I am submitting a joint comment letter on behalf of the cities of Bellevue, Bothell, Duvall, Lynnwood, and Tukwila and Washington Representative Davina Duerr.

This letter pertains to Motion M2020-55 at this afternoon's Sound Transit Board meeting.

Could you please confirm receipt of the letter?

Sincerely,
Lacey Jane

****** See letter referred to below**