



September 23, 2020

Don Anderson
Mayor

City of Lakewood
6000 Main St SW
Lakewood, WA 98499

Jason Whalen
Deputy Mayor

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

Mary Moss
Councilmember

Sent electronically to: emailtheboard@soundtransit.org

Michael D. Brandstetter
Councilmember

RE: Capital Program Realignment – Sound Transit recommendations for Paused Actions

Sound Transit Board of Directors,

John Simpson
Councilmember

The city of Lakewood (“City”) understands that Sound Transit, like many other public entities, has difficult financial and capital project decisions to make due to the onset and continuance of the coronavirus pandemic. We appreciate all of the hard work that Sound Transit is doing during these challenging and trying times to ensure the financial resiliency of Sound Transit and the general safety of the public.

Linda Farmer
Councilmember

Paul Bocchi
Councilmember

Both the South Tacoma and Lakewood Station Parking and Access Improvement Project and the Souder Maintenance Station Project were recommended to be paused at the Executive Committee meeting on September 10, 2020. The City strongly urges Sound Transit to advance, not pause, both projects.

John J. Caulfield
City Manager

The City believes that insufficient analysis was provided on why project advancement and pause recommendations were ultimately made. Simply, these decisions appear rather subjective. The principal rationale provided for pausing the South Tacoma and Lakewood Station Parking and Access Improvement project was to evaluate future commuter service levels in consideration of increased teleworking. This justification is clearly applicable to other projects, including the Kent and Auburn Station Parking and Access Improvements project and Sumner Station Parking and Access Improvements project, both of which were recommended to advance this fall.

Pausing the South Tacoma and Lakewood Station Parking and Access Improvement project and the Sounder Maintenance Base project at this point in time would ultimately act as an unfair disadvantage during the larger realignment process in 2021. The City seconds the comments made by Sound Transit Board member and King County Council Chair Claudia Balducci that these decisions could “permanently impact those project’s entire hands forever in some way without a real justification for why.”

The City requests that Sound Transit advance the South Tacoma and Lakewood Station Parking and Access Improvements project along with the Kent and Auburn Station Parking and Access Improvements project and Sumner Station Parking and Access Improvements project this fall. As stated by Sound Transit Board member and Pierce County Executive Bruce Dammeier advancing these projects with the others would help improve equitable access to Sound Transit facilities across its service area and help engender greater support for Sound Transit in Pierce County.

Additionally, the City also requests that the Sounder Maintenance Station continue to move forward this fall. We understand that this is a much larger ask. The City has invested a great deal of time and effort into this project and is excited to see it come to a timely completion. Like the access projects described above, pausing this project at this time, with minimal explanation as to why it was paused, would be detrimental to the project’s success and Sounder operations in the long run.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,



Don Anderson
Mayor, City of Lakewood

cc: Lakewood City Council
Lakewood City Manager