



May 21, 2021

Sound Transit Board
The Honorable Kent Keel, Chair
401 South Jackson Street
Seattle, WA 98104

Re: Citizen Oversight Panel Comments on Realignment

Dear Chair Keel:

The Sound Transit Citizen Oversight Panel (COP) has received regular updates on the Board’s realignment process, including, most recently, at its regular meeting on May 5, 2021. During the discussion of alternative scenarios, some COP members raised concerns over the “no parking” components proposed as a cost saving method.

As Sound Transit considers potential deferral of park-and-ride facilities at future high capacity transit stations, we strongly encourage collaborative efforts with local jurisdictions and other stakeholders. For example, while deferral of park-and-ride lot capacity would reduce overall ST3 costs, local jurisdictions may have to assume added costs. The deferral of parking capacity will not preclude parking as an access mode; riders will likely look for spaces on streets in station areas. This “hide-and-ride” as an access mode could then result in higher costs assumed by local jurisdictions to deal with parking enforcement.

One example of these added costs by local jurisdictions involves the oft-delayed garage at the Tukwila International Blvd. Station, where unauthorized parking in surrounding areas has negatively impacted neighborhoods and businesses since the station opened in 2009. The cities of Tukwila and SeaTac have been forced to spend millions of dollars to deal with hide and ride parking and congestion problems in this area because of the lack of adequate parking for such a critical multi-modal station. Puyallup, Sumner, Kent and Auburn experience similar issues along the Sounder line, as those communities await parking facilities deferred by the Great Recession.

If Sound Transit does defer some park-and-ride facilities as part of realignment, we encourage close collaborative efforts with stakeholders, particularly local jurisdictions. These efforts will identify potential approaches to mitigating the loss of anticipated park-and-ride capacity, as well as strategies relating to practical and effective alternatives for station access, which is a priority of the ST3 plan and a particular focus of the COP as a tool for increasing equitable access for all users.

CHAIR

Scott Lampe

VICE CHAIR

Lawrence R. Sauvé

PANEL MEMBERS

Fred G. Auch

Brett Johnson

James Peyton

Helen Powell

Joseph Scorcio

Paul Thompson

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this particularly important component of the system restructuring process currently underway.

Sincerely,

CITIZEN OVERSIGHT PANEL

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Scott Lampe". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping initial "S".

Scott Lampe,
Citizen Oversight Panel Chair

Cc: Peter M. Rogoff, CEO
Citizen Oversight Panel