



March 17, 2021

The Honorable Patty Murray
United States Senate
154 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Murray,

On behalf of Sound Transit, we are writing to express our sincere appreciation for your leadership and support for the “American Rescue Plan” (H.R.1319). This legislation, coupled with earlier federal relief packages, will deliver critical funding to help Sound Transit address the financial pressures that have put elements of the regional high capacity transit system at risk. At this time, our federal partnerships are more critical than ever and we thank you for your on-going support.

As you know, Sound Transit is currently implementing the most ambitious transit expansion in the nation: building clean energy mobility options for the future, delivering transit services for essential workers, and providing thousands of family-wage jobs. The COVID-19 pandemic has taken a crushing toll on local tax revenues dedicated to building this regional system – putting its full and timely implementation at risk. Our current projections estimate a loss of \$6 billion in revenue over the life of the 25-year financial plan. This revenue loss, coupled with dramatic cost increases, has resulted in an affordability gap of \$11.5 billion which requires the Board of Directors to realign that portion of our capital program in the early stages of development.

The federal relief provided in the American Rescue Plan will bring more than \$400 million to the agency by providing specific support to existing Full Funding Grant Agreements (FFGA) based on the level of local share, along with additional assistance through federal formula programs. By increasing the agency’s financial capacity, these critical dollars will help minimize the Board’s realignment challenge, as they seek to balance the requirement to have an affordable plan with the need to keep projects advancing through development to construction.

We are deeply appreciative of your leadership to deliver critical federal support for the regional transit system, from the American Rescue Plan, the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act (CRRSAA) and the Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security (CARES) Act.

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We look forward to continuing to grow our federal partnerships through an infrastructure package and surface transportation reauthorization, with a focus on securing a provision like Section 103 of last year's H.R.2 that would increase the federal share of our FFGAs by 30 percent. Together, we can deliver voter-approved transit expansions on time while generating thousands of jobs and creating a sustainable future.

Thank you again for your strong leadership during these challenging times. Your long-standing advocacy for federal support on behalf of Sound Transit will have an enduring impact as we work together to deliver the high capacity transit system for the Puget Sound.

Sincerely,



Kent Keel, Chair
Sound Transit Board of Directors



Peter M. Rogoff
Chief Executive Officer

Cc: Sound Transit Board of Directors
Ann Snell McNeil, Chief Government and Community Relations Officer