

12/14/2023 System Expansion Committee
Meeting Written Public Comment
Submissions

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FareStart

Dear Sound Transit Board of Directors:

We advocate for Sound Transit to further study the Westlake Shifted West and 5th/Harrison station combination. We remain highly concerned about any prolonged impact on Westlake Avenue as Sound Transit extends light rail service to the Denny Regrade and South Lake Union neighborhoods. Any proposal that would cause Westlake to be partially or fully closed and hinder public transportation would cause catastrophic damage to FareStart's work, impacting the thousands of people we serve across the Seattle area, as well as our financial viability.

For over 30 years, our community has relied on FareStart to transform lives, disrupt poverty and nourish communities. Our headquarters are located at Westlake, 7th Avenue and Virginia Street. Like many organizations, we are stabilizing and rebuilding post-pandemic. An extended partial or full closure of Westlake would set back our work dramatically, and possibly shutter our ability to operate downtown.

Our headquarters is the heart of where our mission takes place. We are actively growing our job training programs and social enterprise businesses within this location and expect to be back at 100% capacity next year. Any light rail construction proposal that limits access to Westlake would impede our ability to provide job training and raise critical revenue to support our mission. A disruption to Westlake would compound already very difficult traffic challenges devastating meal production and delivery to thousands of food-insecure people across the Seattle area. The closure would also hinder the flow of customers to our dining and private event space, which we began reopening earlier this year. Our businesses not only feed the community but also provide job training and life skills to hundreds of people annually experiencing homelessness and other barriers to employment.

The Sound Transit Board must thoroughly explore all options and their economic impact on our community, including further study of Westlake Shifted West and 5th/Harrison station combination. Downtown Seattle is just beginning to come back after the economic devastation of the pandemic. It's imperative that Westlake remains fully functioning for the viability of FareStart and for other organizations and residents who rely on this critical thoroughfare in our community. There are stronger, more sensible options to bring light rail to the South Lake Union/Denny Regrade neighborhoods while serving our greater community.

Sincerely,
Patrick D'Amelio

Uptown Alliance

The substance of this comment is within a letter attached to the end of this summary document.

We are resending our letter from November 9 , RE: BLE - SLU Stations and Alignment and our continuing engagement on the issues.

Thank you for your consideration.

Mercedes Fernandez, co-chair LURC Uptown Alliance

James Vargas - MoPOP

Dear Sound Transit Board,

The Museum of POP Culture (MoPOP) would like to take this opportunity to comment on Motion M2023-109 and M2023-110. The Museum of POP Culture has been a resident on the Seattle Center campus since June 28th of 2000. Formally known as Experience Music Project (EMP), MoPOP is a leading-edge nonprofit museum, dedicated to the ideas and risk-taking that fuel contemporary popular culture. We would like to address specific concerns that have a direct impact to museum operations. As an iconic building home to thousands of unique and rare artifacts, it is important we take every precaution protecting the environment they are housed in, both internally and externally.

As a representative of the Museum of POP Culture, I would like to voice our opposition to the proposed motions for the addition of an alternative station in the South Lake Union area, and its potential inclusion in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the Ballard Link Extension project. Our concern is the proposed location of 5th Ave North, and Harrison Street. The Museum of POP Culture is an iconic building serving millions of visitors in our community and from around the world. As a non-profit museum, we rely heavily on attendance and donations to keep our doors open to the public. The location of a major construction project on the corner of 5th Ave North, and Harrison Street, a crosswalk away from our museum, is problematic for several reasons.

- **Extensive Construction Noise and Vibration:** The tunnel alignment could feasibly run a little over 100 feet from our museum, and potential vibrations that close to our foundation may have negative impacts to the building structure. The design of the building is unique and careful consideration needs to be taken for the long-term preservation of the artifacts in our care.
- **Museum Attendance Impacts:** Construction would significantly impact the walkability of the area, transit routes, access to the 99-tunnel entrance, parking at the 5th Avenue garage and would have a direct impact on the number of visitors who visit MoPOP and the Seattle Center campus. As an example, the Seattle Aquarium has seen decreased visitation on the waterfront with the construction greatly impacting their business.
- **Extreme Revenue Loss:** Having major construction across the street for a period of several years would most likely have extremely negative effects on our revenue-not the least of which would be decreased revenue from the 5th Avenue Garage we share with Seattle Center. This would further decrease revenue for the museum. We also must factor in potential street closures in the area, specifically the Harrison St roundabout and our consequential inability to load in any new shows or load in any equipment necessary for the basic operations of our building. MoPOP does not have an alternative for loading and unloading.

In conclusion, we urge you to focus on the current Preferred Alternatives at Denny (Shifted North) and South Lake Union (7th and Harrison).

Thank you,

James Vegas

James Vegas
Director, Facilities + Museum Operations

Dan McGrady – PEMCO Insurance

To the Sound Transit Board:

I am writing you today on behalf of PEMCO Insurance Company to support the 5th & Harrison SLU station feasibility study.

The agency's current Preferred Alternative ("Westlake Shifted North") would harm Westlake Avenue and does not consider the risks of extensive utility relocations at 7th & Harrison. By studying the 5th & Harrison Station in combination with the "Westlake Shifted West" Denny Station, the Board has the opportunity to pursue a pair of stations that can be delivered in less time and with fewer resources than the current preferred alternative, all while minimizing harm to the South Lake Union area.

As an SLU business for nearly 75 years, PECMO cares deeply about the health of our neighborhood and region. Please vote "yes" to approve the 5th & Harrison station feasibility study.

Thank you.

Dan McGrady

Dan McGrady
Director of Government Affairs

Khushbu Vyas

Sound Transit Board,

I am writing in regards to the Ballard Link Extension. I would like to express my support for the alternate station location at 5th and Harrison for the South Lake Union station. Given that the original location at 7th and Harrison has concerns about utilities and traffic, I believe that evaluating 5th and Harrison as an alternative location for the SLU Staton in combination with the Denny Westlake Shifted West Station is worth consideration.

Please include the 5th and Harrison location for the SLU station in the DEIS.

Thank you!
Khushbu Vyas

Nisha Naryia

Sound Transit Board,

I am writing in regards to the Ballard Link Extension. I would like to express my support for the alternate station location at 5th and Harrison for the South Lake Union station. Given that the original location at 7th and Harrison has concerns about utilities and traffic, I believe that evaluating 5th and Harrison as an alternative location for the SLU Station in combination with the Denny Westlake Shifted West Station is worth consideration.

Please include the 5th and Harrison location for the SLU station in the DEIS.

Thank you!

-Nisha Nariya

Sophia Miyazaki

Sound Transit Board,

I am writing in regards to the Ballard Link Extension. I would like to express my support for the alternate station location at 5th and Harrison for the South Lake Union station. Given that the original location at 7th and Harrison has concerns about utilities and traffic, I believe that evaluating 5th and Harrison as an alternative location for the SLU Station in combination with the Denny Westlake Shifted West Station is worth consideration.

Please include the 5th and Harrison location for the SLU station in the DEIS.

Thank you!
Sophia Miyazaki

Christina Martin

Hi members of the Sound Transit Board,

I am writing in regards to the Ballard Link Extension. I would like to express my support for the alternate station location at 5th and Harrison for the South Lake Union station. Given that the original location at 7th and Harrison has concerns about utilities and traffic, I believe that evaluating 5th and Harrison as an alternative location for the SLU Station in combination with the Denny Westlake Shifted West Station is worth consideration.

Please include the 5th and Harrison location for the SLU station in the DEIS.

Thank you!

Christine Martin, PhD

Kelli Maguire

Sound Transit Board,

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Please include the 5th and Harrison location for the SLU station in the DEIS.

Thank you!

Kelli Maguire

Chris Griffin

Sound Transit Board,

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Please include the 5th and Harrison location for the SLU station in the DEIS.

Thank you!

Chris Griffin

Zahra Megji

Sound Transit Board,

I am writing in regards to the Ballard Link Extension. I would like to express my support for the alternate station location at 5th and Harrison for the South Lake Union station. Given that the original location at 7th and Harrison has concerns about utilities and traffic, I believe that evaluating 5th and Harrison as an alternative location for the SLU Station in combination with the Denny Westlake Shifted West Station is worth consideration.

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Thank you!
Zahra Megji

Kim Callahan

Sound Transit Board,

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Please include the 5th and Harrison location for the SLU station in the DEIS.

Thank you!
Kim Callahan
Resident of Ravenna neighborhood and daily commuter to South Lake Union

Tiffany Clark

Sound Transit Board,

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Please include the 5th and Harrison location for the SLU station in the DEIS.

Thank you!
Tiffany Clark

Samir Daftary

Sound Transit Board,

I am writing in regards to the Ballard Link Extension. I would like to express my support for the alternate station location at 5th and Harrison for the South Lake Union station. Given that the original location at 7th and Harrison has concerns about utilities and traffic, I believe that evaluating 5th and Harrison as an alternative location for the SLU Station in combination with the Denny Westlake Shifted West Station is worth consideration.

Please include the 5th and Harrison location for the SLU station in the DEIS.

Thank you!
Samir Daftary

Zahoor Ahmed

Sound Transit Board,

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Please include the 5th and Harrison location for the SLU station in the DEIS.

Thank you!

Zahoor Ahmed

Xuemin

Sound Transit Board,

I am writing in regards to the Ballard Link Extension. I would like to express my support for the alternate station location at 5th and Harrison for the South Lake Union station. Given that the original location at 7th and Harrison has concerns about utilities and traffic, I believe that evaluating 5th and Harrison as an

alternative location for the SLU Station in combination with the Denny Westlake Shifted West Station is worth consideration.

Please include the 5th and Harrison location for the SLU station in the DEIS.

Thank you!

Xuemin

Micky Singh

Sound Transit Board,

I am writing in regards to the Ballard Link Extension. I would like to express my support for the alternate station location at 5th and Harrison for the South Lake Union station. Given that the original location at 7th and Harrison has concerns about utilities and traffic, I believe that evaluating 5th and Harrison as an alternative location for the SLU Station in combination with the Denny Westlake Shifted West Station is worth consideration.

Please include the 5th and Harrison location for the SLU station in the DEIS.

Thank you!

Micky Singh

Narita

Sound Transit Board,

I am writing in regards to the Ballard Link Extension. I would like to express my support for the alternate station location at 5th and Harrison for the South Lake Union station. Given that the original location at 7th and Harrison has concerns about utilities and traffic, I believe that evaluating 5th and Harrison as an alternative location for the SLU Station in combination with the Denny Westlake Shifted West Station is worth consideration.

Please include the 5th and Harrison location for the SLU station in the DEIS.

Thank you!

Narita

Padma Venkatachalam

Sound Transit Board,

I am writing in regards to the Ballard Link Extension. I would like to express my support for the alternate station location at 5th and Harrison for the South Lake Union station. Given that the original location at 7th and Harrison has concerns about utilities and traffic, I believe that evaluating 5th and Harrison as an alternative location for the SLU Station in combination with the Denny Westlake Shifted West Station is worth consideration.

Please include the 5th and Harrison location for the SLU station in the DEIS.

Thank you!

Padma Venkatachalam

Betty Lau

Emailed Public Comment by Betty Lau to System Expansion Committee Meeting, Thursday, 12/14/23 at Union Station, 1:30 p.m.

Season's Greetings, System Expansion Committee Members,

I'm Betty Lau, co-founder of Transit Equity for All.

I'm here to make my final 2023 plea for equity, inclusion, racial, social and economic justice for Chinatown, Japantown, and Little Saigon.

Many of you have statements on your official websites saying you are:

- Champions of the poor, the downtrodden, the marginalized
- You fight inequitable systems that hold down people of color
- You defend the children, the elderly, small businesses

But your silence throughout 2023 on the promised studies for the 4th Avenue Transit Hub speaks volumes:

- That next door access to light rail for communities of color doesn't matter
- That the mobility challenges of 1200+ seniors of color don't matter
- That economic justice for the CID doesn't matter.

Resolve to do better in 2024! Get going on the 4th Avenue Transit Hub at Union Station!

Thank you.

[John Ho](#)

Dear Sound Transit,

I've heard of the contentious debate between the 4th Ave—Midtown route and the North (of CID)—South (of CID) route for the new light rail tunnel in Seattle. I would like to propose a compromise between the two routes that may be at least somewhat acceptable to people on both sides: a North—South route with the addition of a people mover linking the South of CID station with Union Station.

At the Union Station end, the people mover would be located where the light rail trains would have been in the 4th Ave proposal (or a similar location), while at the South of CID end, the people mover would ideally be located within a 30 to 120 second walk from the light rail trains.

I'm no civil engineer, but a Union Station People Mover is probably significantly faster, cheaper and less disruptive to build than a light rail station under 4th Ave since people movers are smaller than light rail trains and since the tunnel would only go between Union Station and the South of CID station instead of going all the way to Midtown.

I've heard that the 4th Ave viaduct needs to be repaired or rebuilt anyway, so it would be cheaper and easier to install a people mover at the same time as the repair/reconstruction than it would be to install a people mover afterwards. If carefully coordinated with the repair or reconstruction of the 4th Ave viaduct, the additional disruption contributed from the people mover's construction should be minimal.

A Union Station People Mover has two incidental benefits. Firstly, the people mover could also function as a shuttle between Union Station/King Street Station and the Uwajimaya store near the South of CID station, funneling additional potential customers to the store. Second, the Union Station People Mover creates a second 1 Line/3 Line transfer hub between SODO and Westlake; alternatively, if passengers can transfer between the South of CID station on the 1 Line and International District/Chinatown station on the 3 Line using the people mover, the North of CID station could be shifted north back to Midtown.

A Union Station People Mover would obviously cost many millions of dollars, but the total cost of a North—South route plus Union Station People Mover should hopefully still be a few hundred million dollars cheaper than a 4th Ave—Midtown route.

Thank you for your time. Even if you don't immediately take my idea into consideration, feel free to "steal" this idea at any time in the future.

—John

Neha Nariya

Sound Transit Board,

I am writing in regards to the Ballard Link Extension. I would like to express my support for the alternate station location at 5th and Harrison for the South Lake Union station. Given that the original location at 7th and Harrison has concerns about utilities and traffic, I believe that evaluating 5th and Harrison as an alternative location for the SLU Station in combination with the Denny Westlake Shifted West Station is worth consideration.

Please include the 5th and Harrison location for the SLU station in the DEIS.

Thank you!
Neha Nariya

Phil Bouie

Sound Transit Board,

I am writing in regards to the Ballard Link Extension. I would like to express my support for the alternate station location at 5th and Harrison for the South Lake Union station. Given that the original location at 7th and Harrison has concerns about utilities and traffic, I believe that evaluating 5th and Harrison as an alternative location for the SLU Station in combination with the Denny Westlake Shifted West Station is worth consideration.

Please include the 5th and Harrison location for the SLU station in the DEIS.

Thank you!

Phil Bouie

Senior Development Manager

Pronouns: he/him

703.801.9401 (m) | pbouie@legalvoice.org

Avani

Hi Sound Transit Board,

I am writing in regards to the Ballard Link Extension. I would like to express my support for the alternate station location at 5th and Harrison for the South Lake Union station. Given that the original location at 7th and Harrison has concerns about utilities and traffic, I believe that evaluating 5th and Harrison as an alternative location for the SLU Station in combination with the Denny Westlake Shifted West Station is worth consideration.

Please include the 5th and Harrison location for the SLU station in the DEIS.

Thank you!
Avani

Matt Wittman

Sound Transit Board,

I am the architect who designed the Civic Hotel. I writing in regards to the Ballard Link Extension. I would like to express my support for the alternate station location at 5th and Harrison for the South Lake Union station. Given that the original location at 7th and Harrison has concerns about utilities and traffic, I believe that evaluating 5th and Harrison as an alternative location for the SLU Station in combination with the Denny Westlake Shifted West Station is worth consideration.

Please include the 5th and Harrison location for the SLU station in the DEIS.

Civic Hotel is an important historic structure, maintaining the history of the Century 21 Worlds Fair, and was recently renovated and the building has a great future in it's current condition.

Thank you!

Matt Wittman, AIA LEED AP
Architect, Wittman Estes

Iris Cruz

Sound Transit Board,

I am writing in regards to the Ballard Link Extension. I would like to express my support for the alternate station location at 5th and Harrison for the South Lake Union station. Given that the original location at 7th and Harrison has concerns about utilities and traffic, I believe that evaluating 5th and Harrison as an alternative location for the SLU Station in combination with the Denny Westlake Shifted West Station is worth consideration.

Please include the 5th and Harrison location for the SLU station in the DEIS.

Thank you!

Iris cruz

Kyran Hynes

Hello,

Thank you to the Sound Transit team for its ongoing efforts to assess alternatives to minimize the construction impacts of the Ballard Link Extension on Westlake Avenue. As part of the ownership group of Met Tower at 1942 Westlake Avenue, we are very concerned about the impacts that the Denny Station project will have on our residents and retail tenants. We respectfully request that the System Expansion Committee approve Motion # M2023-109 to continue to evaluate the Denny / Westlake Shifted West and South Lake Union 5th & Harrison station locations. Westlake is such a critical and vibrant corridor for the city that it seems well worthwhile to continue advancement of an alternative that would shift a significant amount of the construction activity off of Westlake. Doing so would substantially ease six to eight (or more) years of hardship to tens of thousands of South Lake Union residents, workers, pedestrians, drivers and transit riders. Thank you once again for your continued consideration.

Sincerely,

Kyran Hynes

Vice President

Continental Properties LLC

Juergen Oswald

Dear Sound Transit Board,

I am writing in regards to the Ballard Link Extension. I would like to express my support for the alternate station location at 5th and Harrison for the South Lake Union station. Given that the original location at 7th and Harrison has concerns about utilities and traffic, I believe that evaluating 5th and Harrison

as an alternative location for the SLU Station in combination with the Denny Westlake Shifted West Station is worth consideration.

Please include the 5th and Harrison location for the SLU station in the DEIS.

Thank you!

JUERGEN OSWALD
GENERAL MANAGER

7 Unnamed Commenters

Sound Transit Board,

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Please include the 5th and Harrison location for the SLU station in the DEIS.

Thank you!



November 9, 2023

Neighborhood
with a Sense
of Community

Inclusive
and diverse

Thriving
Arts District

Home to
Seattle Center

Great local
businesses

Walk, Bike,
Bus, Monorail,
(and drive)

Diverse and
affordable
housing

Historic buildings
with character

Open space for
healthy living

Distinguished
cultural and
philanthropic
organizations

Council Member Claudia Balducci
Systems Expansion Committee Chair
Sound Transit - Sent via email
401 South Jackson Street
Seattle, Washington 98104

Re: BLE - SLU Stations and Alignment

Council Member Balducci and System Expansion Committee Members:

It has been noted in the agenda that under discussion today may be a request for further studies for the Ballard Link Extension regarding the alignment and station locations in South Lake Union. Uptown Alliance has a long history of working together with SLU as these stations have a tremendous impact on walkshed and ridership in Uptown. Below are key points we ask you to consider:

- Support the Preferred Alternative voted by Sound Transit Board of Directors in ST Motion M2023-57 on July 27, 2023 which describes the Denny Station as the Denny Westlake Shifted North alternative with a station located at the current Vulcan Discovery Center site and a second station at 7th & Harrison.
- Additionally, because of concern for technical and engineering challenges, there has been growing community support to add to the upcoming DEIS, a new "further study" with an evaluation of a shift of the 7th and Harrison station west closer to 5th Ave while also shifting the location of the station on the SLU Discovery Center for better alignment. We support this added further study if it does not add significant delay or cost to the project and assumes keeping two (2) SLU stations that ultimately provide similar ridership and walkshed coverage of the current Preferred Alternative.
- Of utmost importance to our community, is that this discussion today allows for a **major correction** from the Board to their Motion M2023-57 and vote to eliminate the consolidated station alignment known as "*Denny Westlake Shifted West alternative*" from the DEIS studies which has virtually no support in any of our communities. Let's not spend staff time and cost on something no one wants.

Thank you for your consideration,

Rick Hooper
Uptown Alliance Co-chair

Mercedes Fernandez
Uptown Alliance Co-chair