

6/13/2024 System Expansion Committee
Meeting Written Public Comment
Submissions

Submissions

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Ed Miller – GarageTown Condominium Association

To the Expansion Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on Sound Transit's expansion plans. My name is Ed Miller and I'm the President of the GarageTown Federal Way Condominium Association.

The families and businesses that make up the community of owners of GarageTown Federal Way were relieved at the end of 2021 when the Sound Transit Board selected the S. 336th St. as the preferred alternative for the OMF-South Facility. This was an important event for us as it gave some hope that our community would be preserved during Sound Transit's southward expansion. Today, now that the Final EIS has been complete, the choice is even clearer. We hope you will affirm the staff recommendation of the S. 336th site as the project to be built.

As a reminder, during the DEIS process, 93% of respondents opposed the selection of the site that includes our property, S. 344th. Even the Christian Faith Center in their letter to Sound Transit, and their public testimony in December of 2021, stated that the S. 344th St. site is actually more impactful to them than selection of the S. 336th St. site, which was chosen at that time as Sound Transit's preferred alternative.

Lastly, I wanted to thank the work of Sound Transit staff during this long process. Curvie Hawkins, Andrew Austin, Sagar Ramachandra, Chelsea Levy, and many, many more. Over the years, we have had the opportunity to work with many on your staff and they were always responsive to our concerns and transparent about the process. Even though the discussions were at times stressful for us as we considered potential impacts to our property, we sincerely appreciated Sound Transit staff's approach to working with us on this very consequential decision for our neighborhood community.

Thank you again for listening to the community. I urge to you select the S. 336th site as the project to be built for the OMF-South facility.

Sincerely,
Ed Miller
President, GarageTown Federal Way Condominium Association

Charles Loeffler

Dear ST Board and my city and county reps,

I grew up in White Center and have lived in West Seattle the last ten years since getting out of school. I am writing to reaffirm my 2016 vote in FAVOR of lightrail expansion to West Seattle. I write this to contradict what seems to be a very vocal group of my neighbors that have lately been organizing to portray the already-democratically-voted-on expansion as a sudden imposition on the community.

So to say it loud and clear, I support Link expansion:

- That includes a station at Delridge
- That includes a station at Avalon
- That includes a station RIGHT IN the Alaska Junction

-That is oriented for future expansion to White Center and Burien
-That is planned in such a way to minimize negative impacts to natural habitat
-Even if it is above ground
-Even if it might result in displacement of some homes or businesses
Please do your diligence in environmental impact review and taking public comment. However, please don't let a handful of vocal people with more time and resources at their disposal than many of us make you think they speak for the whole peninsula. They don't.
Sincerely,
Charles Loeffler
98126

Mary Spielmann

Dear Sound Transit Board,

I am a West Seattle resident of 20 years and I am looking forward to the West Seattle link immensely. I know the "Rethink the Link" and Gondola (ugh!) voices are loud in West Seattle because they have money and are probably retired. They don't represent me or my neighbors and they are misinformed at best, NIMBYs at worst. Please don't take them seriously, we really need the light rail to stay on schedule! I am tired of my vote and many others discounted by these people; we are a democracy and we voted for this. I don't go to meetings with Sound Transit because of my schedule yet I want to voice my opinion- ignore the grousing, bad faith rhetoric, and propaganda from the anti-rail folks and keep the project on schedule, please!

Many thanks to you,
Mary Spielmann

Betty Lau

Public Comment by Betty Lau at Sound Transit System Expansion Committee Meeting, Thursday, 6/13/24, 1:30 p.m. at Union Station

Hello! I'm Betty Lau of Transit Equity for All.

It's 15 months of information embargo since the Mar. 23, 2023 board vote to proceed with N&S of CID alternatives and continue studies on 4th Avenue.

I'm told 4th is very complicated, that the easy routes and stations are being done first.

That's backwards. The "spine" voters approved should be done first.

1. It's cheaper to do it now before costs escalate to impossible highs.
2. Easier routes and stations can be done later and more quickly when costs are higher, thus saving money over doing something complex and costly later.

Or is it that Money, Power and Privilege make everything easy?

You saw the 60+ low-income senior residents who were here to demand racial, social and economic justice last month.

You saw the 700+ letters turned in to you supporting 4th Avenue.

And you continually see 4th Avenue speakers while month after month no one speaks for the preferred alternatives.

Do what's right for the region! Move Forward on 4th!

Thank you.

Eugenio Vidales Jr.

Dear Board Members,

Please consider a station on 4th Avenue in the Chinese International District.

The first time I came to Seattle as a college freshmen, I was dropped off by the Greyhound bus in the Uwajimaya parking lot. Lost and confused I dragged my suitcase around the neighborhood to find food and directions. After eating fresh dumplings and stumbling into a park with live music, however, I decided to stay a while.

When friends came to visit me in Seattle, the one place I insisted on showing them around was the CID. Taking the light rail down, we explored the Pink Gorilla game shop and talked in a tea shop.

Landing an internship at Sound Transit, I was super excited to find out the offices were right across the street. After a morning commute from the East side using the ST Express buses, I would always try to convince the other interns to all join me in going to different restaurants after work.

Not only does good transit keep the CID alive and flourishing, but it stands as a center of Seattle culture. The CID is the perfect and most deserving place to become Seattle's light rail hub.

Please consider a station on 4th Avenue in the Chinese International District.

Thank you for your public service,

Eugenio Vidales Jr