

11/20/2025 Board of Directors Meeting
Written Public Comment Submissions

Submissions

<i>Betty Lau</i>	2
<i>Brien Chow</i>	5

Betty Lau

Dear Meeting Comments Administration,

Here are my comments for the board meeting of 11/20/25.

Thank you,

Betty

**Written Public Comment by Betty Lau, Sound Transit Board Meeting,
Thursday, 11/20/25, 1:30 p.m. at Union Station**

I'm Betty Lau, from the Sound Transit Accessibility Committee and co-founder of Transit Equity for All.

The emergency evacuation plan for people with disabilities is a good start at continuous improvement. Thank you.

Here's one more area of improvement for the meetings of the Sound Transit Citizens Accessibility Advisory Committee (CAAC):

Solve the Mystery of the Missing CAAC Charter!

Last June, I was told CAAC can't meet monthly because the Charter says we meet every other month. I asked for a copy of the Charter and was told it's being revised and will be given to CAAC members for review later. "Later" has yet to arrive.

1. I asked for the charters of other Sound Transit committees for comparison and was told only CAAC has a Charter; other ST committees don't have one, which leads me to ask:
 - Why does only the Accessibility committee need a charter?
 - Why does CAAC meet every other month, when other ST committees meet monthly? The delays are a major impediment. We ask a question and are told they will be answered at the next meeting, two months down the road. By then, no one remembers questions were supposed to be answered, especially since no minutes are kept.
2. In October I asked again for a copy of the CAAC charter plus how it was created to compare with the revised one staff are working on to give us for review. Instead of sending all CAAC members the Charter:

- Staff registered me with the Public Disclosure Request (PDR) department and submitted my request as a PDR.
 - Why is a PDR needed to get a copy of a Charter all members of CAAC are supposed to follow?
 - Do all committee members need to register and request the Charter through a PDR?
 - Shouldn't we each receive a copy of the Charter at the time we are admitted to membership in the committee?
3. The PDR department has not responded to the request for the Charter and its creation history that another of your staff sent in without my consent.
 4. Nothing about the Charter process makes sense to me. If as we are told, we members are bound to obey this mystery charter, then it stands to reason we should be given copies of it! And if it is to be revised, then having a copy of it is imperative so we can make revisions, not the staff.

Therefore, I must conclude there is something to hide.

Bottom Line: It is inequitable for the Accessibility committee to have different procedures from other committees (a Charter none of us has seen, bi-monthly meetings, lack of meeting minutes, lack of information presented at public workshops, need for PDRs to get the Charter and other information).

I remind you of CEO Constantine's call for "continuous improvement," and "listening to communities" (KUOW interview, Aug. 11).

I remind you of KC Executive Zahilay's comments: "Efforts will continue to prioritize serving riders who depend on Sound Transit's services, including *seniors, people with disabilities, Title VI protected populations (race, color, national origin), low-income and limited-English-proficiency populations*" (D2 newsletter, Oct. 31, 2025, emphasis mine).

Finally, we members of CAAC want to be treated as the cognitively functioning adults that we are, and so far, that is still not happening.

If we were treated equitably, at least three of six Sound Transit principles would come true: inclusive collaboration, responsible stewardship and transparency.

Aforethought, not afterthought! Thank you.

Brien Chow

Sound Transit Board Meeting Public Comment

By Brien Chow — November 20, 2025, Union Station, 1:30 p.m.

Good afternoon.

I'm Brien Chow, co-founder of Transit Equity for All.

"To be called by one's true name is the beginning of respect."

Inspired by Confucius

Names carry history, identity, and belonging — especially in Asian communities. Chinatown–International District represents decades of resilience and community building by Chinese, Japanese, Vietnamese, Filipino, and other residents. City Ordinance 119297 legally protects that identity.

Correcting the backwards **ID/Chinatown** station name to **Chinatown–International District** is a powerful act of repairing past harms:

it confronts systemic racism rooted in redlining, gentrification, and displacement, and honors the voices of long-time community members.

It's also an accessibility issue — blind and low-vision riders rely on accurate tactile signage for safe, independent travel.

Because staff are replacing elevator and platform signage for the 1 and 2 Lines, making this correction under the Enterprise Initiative saves on labor, materials, and planning costs by avoiding later, higher-cost work.

This change is low-cost, high-impact, and advances equity, accessibility, and fiscal responsibility.

Correct the ID/Chinatown station name to align with the City Ordinance name, Chinatown–International District.

You are renaming the 1 Line and 2 Line platforms — do this at the same time. It will eliminate regional ridership confusion while advancing equity and racial and social justice for marginalized people of color in the CID.

Thank you.

Brien Chow
Co-Founder
Transit Equity for All

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GO TO FOR INFORMATION... linktr.ee/TransitEquityforAll MFo4th

References

1. Chinatown International District Urban Village Master Plan, (1998, 2023 update)
2. City of Seattle Neighborhoods, *Chinatown International District – Acknowledging Harm & History* ([Seattle](#))
3. Hamby, Beth. Monday, 11/17/25 email, 12:05 p.m. informs Accessibility Committee of renaming of 1 and 2 Line platforms and elevators
4. SCIDpda history of displacement, redlining, I-5 and preservation ([SCIDpda](#))
5. Seattle City Clerk, **Ordinance 119297** (1998/1999)
6. Wing Luke Museum, Chinatown-International District as a cultural anchor ([Wing Luke Museum](#))
7. *Seattle Times*, systemic racism and redlining in CID context ([The Seattle Times](#))
8. Washington Trust / National Trust, CID named to Washington state and National 11 Most Endangered Historic Places Lists (historical disinvestment, preservewa.org)