

**From:** BB & BC <freddowell54@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, May 8, 2023 4:36 PM  
**To:** City Clerk's Office  
**Subject:** For Tacoma city council before Tuesday

**Follow Up Flag:** Flag for follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

I'm writing regards to the Tacoma city council meeting scheduled for May 9th 2023. It's come to my attention that they are going to discuss the performance review and possible Employment contract with the current city manager.

First let me see I'm disappointed in the Tacoma city council and their staff for not getting this meeting information out on Facebook on the city site because it's not there as a 4:15 on Monday May 8th and normally the city post two or three notices a day of things that are going on whether it's photo ops or group hugs whatever and this week for some reason nothing mentioned about the city council meeting for tomorrow and the fact that you're going to do this performance review for the city manager. My question is why are you hiding this?

Yes I know we can go to the city of Tacoma website and dig through it and try to find this information a lot of people like going to the Facebook page and say hey look meaning tomorrow hey this is what they're going to cover I've used it more than the city of Tacoma web page.

I feel this is another case of the city of Tacoma government not being transparent to the citizens and taxpayers. Just like when you put notices out of a proclamation for a day that was the week before. Your staff is dropping the ball.

I for one am against a renewal of a new contract with the current city manager I did find a chance to get a copy of the performance review that someone filled out I believe it was a i self review and I disagree with it I couldn't find it myself with friends sent it to me. However there's been an awful lot of thing about the anti-racism and Equity issues and yet the bridge industrial project you're forcing on the people

I am quite frankly disappointed the city manager we don't hear much from her except when she's on TV saying there's no issues today or the every other month TV show with her and the mayor which hasn't been held in a while I wonder why I went to the city cable 12 page and it doesn't show there's been any ask the mayor ask the city manager sessions in 2023 there's no archive I wonder why?

The the budget was known to have a 12 million dollar deficit when they were discussing it and what did they do they didn't make any departments cut their budgets did they we never heard of any no well we need to increase the garbage tax oh let's put a B&O tax on businesses cuz they don't have one and that's all you did you didn't give any type of a break or try to control spending for example less trips by City officials and employees we don't need nine people to go to the National League of cities conference when other cities that I have contacted send one or maybe two people why does Tacoma said nine how much money did that cost the taxpayers that was unnecessarily spent answer that question city manager.

I could continue on but I don't want to write a book I just want to voice my disclosure with the fact that the review that I saw of her if that's a self review it's pretty pretty soft if that's the proper term you ask the city residents that give her a review it's not going to look like that they would actually probably say that she should be fired we have issues that have come up in the past and they forget about them or it'll go away and they don't do anything to stop it or fix it. And finally I remember last year when they started bragging how we're going to let people write in and ask questions of the city manager and mayor every other month that says so far I haven't been able to find any for 2023 I went to the city of Tacoma TV website and there's no Archive of any shows that they're on so what happened to ask the mayor in city manager questions it went away some of the questions you answered were absolutely disgusting there were more important issues out there that people asked I know cuz I submitted one and we don't even get a reply that's the biggest problem with the city manager and City management including all council members there is a lack of communication and transparency to the stockholders of the city we the taxpayers.

In conclusion I disagree with the review that was that I read today and I urge the city council not to rehire her or give her a new employment agreement the salary is ridiculously high and with all the teacups that you gave her last year ridiculous I guess we could say that's one of the family wage jobs right? we don't find that much in Tacoma you think any of those jobs at the

proposed Bridge industrial complex are going to be family wage jobs? No

Fred Dowell

**From:** Michelle Mood <moodm@kenyon.edu>  
**Sent:** Monday, May 8, 2023 3:59 PM  
**To:** City Clerk's Office  
**Subject:** Comment for City Council Meeting Tomorrow

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

I am writing regarding the “reappointment of Elizabeth Pauli to the position of City Manager, approving the annual performance review and executing a new employment agreement”

I am most concerned about the very poor ranking of our governance, which is dollars per service received per capita, as found in the WalletHub survey. Tacoma ranked 11 from the bottom, number 139 out of 150 overall. Total budge per capita we ranked 142 out of 150.\* From the Tacoma City Manager’s website: “The role of the City Manager’s Office is to work with the City Council and City departments to ensure effective implementation of City policies. The City Manager’s Office works in conjunction with the Mayor and City Council to implement the policies set forth by the City Council and ensure that City programs and operations meet the needs of Tacoma residents. Today, we continue our efforts to serve Tacoma residents and visitors in the smartest, most efficient and most cost-effective way possible, while building a comprehensive approach that helps Tacoma’s economic stability, financial prosperity, and cultural vitality.”

The buck stops at the City Manager’s office. It’s extremely unlikely, given the Wallethub rating evidence, that she really has so little to improve upon. And yet Pauli is getting great ratings despite issues revealed by that survey.

I was particularly stunned by her Leadership rating – close to “role model” as a leader. She is sucking all the power away from the Mayor and City Council, recklessly undermining their role with misdirection and misleading presentations that rip away the role of our elected officials.

In terms of specifics of how she is falling short overall in leading our city, one example of her poor track record is the feeble work with Transforming Tacoma, allegedly, “**Our Vision (Our ideal state):** We are an anti-racist organization creating just and equitable outcomes for all, focusing on long term, systemic change and accountability to the community. **Our Mission (What we will do to achieve our vision):** We dismantle institutional and structural racism. We listen to voices of people of color and utilize data to identify, understand and actively work to adopt anti-racist policies and eliminate barriers to success for people of color. We acknowledge and repair harm caused by the City of Tacoma

#### **Putting it into Action**

We continue to direct our work according to the standards set forth in [Resolution 40622](#):

- Keeping anti-racism as a top priority in [budget development](#).
- Prioritizing anti-racism in the evaluation of new policies and programs as well as the sustained and comprehensive transformation of existing services, through implementation of Racial Equity Action Plans.”

I just don’t see it. Do you? Where is the anti-racism in terms of not deepening the racial injustice of the environmental health inequity? Where is the dismantling of structural and institutional racism when construction and pollution still follows the most poor, most sick, now overburdened areas?

Allegedly she’s in charge of the office Transforming Tacoma – “Ongoing work to establish and implement a Racial Equity Action Plans. In a sweeping, citywide commitment OEHR helped develop planning strategies and supports for all City departments to create Racial Equity Action Plans (REAP) for the 2021-2022 biennium.” Instead, I hear crickets when it comes to protecting our most vulnerable – in our communities with greater than 50% Blacks, Hispanic, Asian, Indigenous and Mixed Race. There you see real sacrifice zones, getting worse by the City’s decision. The babies growing inside their mother’s womb, prematurely born due to air pollution at shockingly high rates as shows in the Washington State Health Equity Map. The astonishing high cardiovascular disease and deaths. The shockingly low life expectancy. I’ve attached below a list of what happens when humans are exposed to air pollution from vehicles.

The city seems obsessed with bolstering up Pauli's alleged anti-racism work. In the final overall rating, the assessment ends with "The Mayor and City Council appreciate the full breadth and depth of work the City Manager has accomplished in the last year. The Mayor and City Council highlighted the following additional well-dones and opportunities for the City Manager's consideration: Well-Dones

- The City Manager's leadership of Anti-Racist Systems Transformation, including the City Manager's personal engagement, public and transparent activities, and the departmental presentations at City Council meetings, has been outstanding."

Given what the Black, Hispanic, Asian, Indigenous and Mixed Race people are experiencing in this town, this is outrageous.

Overall Pauli got a 4.1 (exceeds expectations) in Organization Performance and Internal Administration, even though she is creating new positions in equity instead of changing what is being done. The quickest way to respond to needs is not by creating a new office that will be responsible but to do it yourself and create a strong leadership that changes the status quo. Is this happening? No.

"The City Manager's follow up and follow through on important items and not letting things fall through the cracks has been exceptional." Oh, never updating the groundwater protection code is something that didn't fall through the cracks? Why aren't such facts on the ground being taken into account?

"Listening to the needs of the Council and the follow through on development of the new position to support constituent response is appreciated." You know, just having a City Manager who actually has a staff that answers email would be huge – not a new position, just someone who actually responds. I have written directly to City Manager Pauli six times in the last 12 months and she has never responded once. I think my number of emails were rather restrained, given the circumstances, but still no one from her office responded a single time.

In fact, that leads us to the confusing 3.7 in this area: "High quality, professional, accessible external communications, and outreach; diverse and broad base of community stakeholders; dialogue about issues of concern; news/media relations;" Well, no dialogue, no diverse and broad base of community stakeholders – what is your evidence? Especially considering someone in city leadership was telling City Council members not to talk to citizens about the Bridge Industrial warehouse – is that even legal?? Or telling Cindy Haverkamp the BI warehouse was already decided last year? And again in this evaluation topic brings up anti-racism work – "The City Manager's strong leadership and transparency in Anti-Racist Systems Transformation ensures it continues to remain a priority." Again, I don't see it.

She is clearly not improving on the issues that last year we citizens specifically spoke out about – she still needs to improve in communicating with the citizens because she does have so much power and responsibility. If she won't do it herself, then the City Council needs to call her out on where she is falling short. Instead, what I witness in the City Manager's relationship with the City Council is that the Manager is overly controlling of the Council. In the past year, for example, she has shepherded outcomes that violate the roles of the City Council members as well as opposing the One Tacoma Comprehensive Plan, aspects of the TMC, the Climate Action Plan, and the Anti-Racist Systems Transformation Resolution. She has overseen her office or subordinate offices feeding false information to city council members, such as linking the groundwater protection moratorium to the Bridge Industrial megawarehouse and ripping away the 12 month moratorium on increase in permeable surface until updates to the groundwater protection code (egregiously neglected under her watch) were completed – instead of verifying if the issues were linked. Her power and presence must be so great that the City Council doesn't even seem to feel they are empowered to question anything, such as when Mayor Woodards praised the Planning Commission for the moratorium when in fact it was citizen-suggested, and no city council member said anything to the contrary. Nor did any city council member ask why the moratorium was ripped away. Relatedly, some city council members openly said they were given a gag order on the Bridge Industrial warehouse – another outrageous move under the reign of the city manager's leadership. Ditto regarding assuming I and others received legal advice on the Bridge warehouse – I wish I had! I have been crippled under the pressure of feeling my way through a confusing morass with no guide with any experience or legal expertise. If I had had, would I have been so incompetent? I would have noticed that the

LU21-0125 notification range – again, during this reign of City Manager Pauli’s leadership-- violated TMC 13.05.070 Title 13 Land Use Regulatory Code I. 4 (b) “Notification distance for a project within the South Tacoma Manufacturing/Industrial Overlay District shall extend to 2,500 feet from the boundaries of the Overlay District.” When there is an active overreach by nonelected staff, the city council should be the check on it, making that person accountable and making processes transparent. You should act on your gut instinct and your intelligence and think through the implications of just accepting this evaluation of the City Manager. If you don’t yet know enough, take another week to consider and make sure you are well informed before you make a decision.

Last year we made our concerns clear, as shown in this excerpt of the meeting: “I object to the high marks for racial equality when current code allows for environmentally racist projects like Bridge Industrial,” said Heidi Stephens, who serves on the South Tacoma Neighborhood Council “This falls to the city manager, who is also allowing a rushed health impact assessment that should be done carefully and correctly ... The city should not pride itself on approving permits faster than anywhere else. That says things are being skipped.” Stephens suggested a weekly meeting between the city manager and residents to help improve communication. “There needs to be a city manager weekly meeting, a Q&A, where we can talk directly to the city manager and get direct responses, which doesn’t seem unreasonable as part of a nearly \$300,000 salary,” she said. Tacoma resident Stacy Oaks also was critical of Pauli’s performance. “I think it’s been expressed quite clearly that people don’t feel heard,” Oaks said. “People don’t feel like they have a voice in this government.” April Smith, Larchmont Neighborhood Safe Streets representative, told council she thought the pay and benefits funding would be better spent on boosting council members’ pay and city services. “I feel that is ridiculous to give another raise ... when our City Council members are doing a job that is extremely hard and demanding on them yet they also have to work second jobs to be able to afford to live in this city,” Smith said.

Please reconsider this bizarrely, over-the-top rating of our City Manager given the WalletHub rating of Tacoma as among the worst-run cities in the nation.. Thank you.

EFFECTS OF AIR POLLUTION and why Anti-Racist initiatives must include Health Equity and Environmental Justice:

Cognition harmed, Heart disease, cancer, asthma, strokes more common, Alzheimers can triple (40% of autopsies in high pollution areas had brain changes, zero elsewhere did); Dementia and Parkinson’s can increase. Mental illness increases – small local pollution increases raise need for treatment by a third and hospitalization by a fifth. Worse memory, attention, vocabulary, ADHD, autism. High pollution the year a baby is born results in reduced earnings and labor force participation by age 30. Toll plaza EZ pass reduced premature births 10.8% and low birth weight 11.8%. Even self-harm increases (just 5 micrograms a day associated with 42% increase in self-harm). Depression quadruples. High air pollution days correlated with lower stock market returns, worse surgical outcomes, more crime esp violent, more chess player mistakes. Politicians speak more simply and umpires make more bad calls.

Source: David Wallace-Wells, “Ten Million A Year,” Vo 43, No 23 (Dec 2, 2021), London Review of Books

\*From the Wallethub site: “But how do we measure the effectiveness of local leadership? One way is by determining a city’s operating efficiency. In other words, we can learn how well city officials manage and spend public funds by comparing the quality of services residents receive against the city’s total budget. Using that approach, WalletHub compared the operating efficiency of 150 of the largest U.S. cities to reveal which among them are managed best. WalletHub compared 150 of the most populated cities across six key categories: 1) Financial Stability, 2) Education, 3) Health, 4) Safety, 5) Economy and 6) Infrastructure & Pollution.” <https://wallethub.com/edu/best-run-cities/22869>

Dr. Michelle S. Mood (she, her, hers)  
(c) 740-233-6333  
219 Oden Hall

*A boomer, not a zoomer.*

**From:** Larchmont Cares <larchmontcares@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, May 8, 2023 12:23 PM  
**To:** City Clerk's Office  
**Subject:** 5/9/23 City Council Meeting

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

Dear Mayor Woodards & Tacoma City Council members,

I am writing concerning Motion 23-0469 on the May 9th agenda regarding the reappointment of Elizabeth Pauli as Tacoma's City Manager. I have reviewed the motion, the performance review & the employment agreement. I would like to ask that you do NOT reappoint Elizabeth Pauli as City Manager, do NOT approve the performance review, & do NOT execute a new employment agreement.

#### **Re Performance Review:**

##### Principles that guide us

**Integrity** - City Manager Pauli does NOT act in an ethical & honest manner, nor is she a responsible steward of the public resources entrusted to her.

**Service** - City Manager Pauli does NOT treat the community with courtesy & empathy. She avoids the community as much as possible & refuses to respond to emails from us.

**Excellence** - City Manager Pauli is accountable individually for meeting high standards which she does NOT.

**Equity** - City Manager Pauli is so removed from reality & does NOT understand & reflect the community she serves. She won't even speak with that community! Does she ensure every community member has services & opportunities that will enable them to satisfy their essential needs & advance their well-being? ABSOLUTELY NOT! City Manager Pauli only cares about herself & how much money she can take from us.

##### *Section 1: Assisting Council with Policy Making Role*

Did City Manager Pauli really do outreach & engagement for McKinley Hill? I feel she achieves expectations in this role, but I see nothing listed here showing anything that exceeds it.

##### *Section 2: Organizational Performance & Internal Administration*

City Manager Pauli should not receive kudo's for the Behavioral Health Crisis Response & the Community Trauma Response. This was purely the work of others that she is taking credit for. Calling the information campaigns such as the speed limit reduction campaign and Home in Tacoma Phase 2 campaign proactive & successful is an absolute JOKE! Many in the city STILL don't know what Home in Tacoma is! Again, sure she meets the low expectations of her here, she sure does not exceed them.

##### *Section 3: External Relations*

City Manager Pauli has increased her engagement with the community? Really? She won't even respond to emails when you specifically ask for a response. She has not once come to one of our Safe Streets meetings or Neighborhood Council meetings. City Manager Pauli is only going out in the community when forced to. I guess you call it that she increased her engagement with the community because previously she had done zero and maybe now has gone to 1 or 2 meetings. That is technically an increase but does not mean that she is doing a good job. City Manager Pauli deserves a rating of "Requires Development" here.

##### *Section 4: Leadership Competencies*

Fully competent in communicating effectively with different audiences? Trying to get any communication from City Manager Pauli is like pulling teeth! It is hard to take the council seriously given the scores they gave City Manager Pauli here. Can you honestly tell me that she instills trust to the tune of nearly being a role model here? Does ANYONE in the community trust City Manager Pauli? It will be just as hard to find someone in the community that believes this as it is trying to get her to communicate! The fact that the council believes City Manager Pauli exceeds expectations here shows how low the expectations are when they should be set high for her position.

##### *Section 5: Council Initiatives: Strategies & Status*

The city manager has managed the budget exceptionally?!?! Have you all lost your mind? Have you seen the budget & how far over we have been? Do you remember asking the public to help balance the budget because it was so horrible? I am really starting to question if anyone reviews City Manager Pauli's self-assessment or if you just let her write all of this and just agree to it. The City of Tacoma budget is an absolute mess.

#### Section 6: Overall Comments & Rating

Flat out, City Manager Pauli is so far from exceeding expectations. For someone being given so much compensation she fails the community miserably.

It is obvious from the Offer Letter that this is a done deal & you don't care about the community concerns regarding this matter. I question the salary of \$309,556 when the Governor of the State of Washington makes less than that. How many raises is realistic? How much can we afford for someone doing a crummy job? The administrative leave on this new offer letter says 0 days where last year it was approved for 20 days of administrative leave. Will you please confirm that her previous 20 days of admin leave have been taken away for the new appointment?

#### Deferred Compensation

ANOTHER one-time contribution of \$20k?!?! How many years in a row can you give her \$20k and call it a one-time contribution? My yearly salary is \$24k!

#### Parking

Why is the City Manager not taking public transportation to & from work? You are pushing the community to drive less & use public transportation, the same should go for the City Manager. Be the change you want to see in the community! Take away her free parking, unless you give ALL city employees free parking, & give her a bus pass.

#### Severance

This is absurd. I don't agree with my money being spent this way. The city council is not responsible with money. You wonder why there is never enough money. Please start acting more responsibly with it.

#### Employee Termination of Agreement

City Manager Pauli, please submit your letter of termination ASAP! As an alternative, please refuse to sign this new offer letter.

Why are the expectations of a city manager making over \$300k set so extremely low? Just so that she can exceed them? When expectations are so low, even a child with zero experience can exceed them. TACOMA DESERVES BETTER THAN THIS!

Tacoma, WA is ranked as the 12th WORST RUN city in the United States! See [The worst-run major cities in the US: study | The Hill](#), [Seattle ranked among the worst managed cities, new study finds - MyNorthwest.com](#), & [Seattle, Tacoma rank among worst-run largest cities in U.S., study suggests \(fox13seattle.com\)](#). This is the doing of City Manager Pauli! How can the rest of the country understand how poorly our city is run, yet the mayor & council say the city manager exceeds expectations? I REALLY want to understand, I do! Tacoma ranks 139th when it comes to its apparent low quality of city services compared to the high budget per capita. Our City Manager is responsible for this. How is this exceeding expectations?

If City Manager Pauli cared AT ALL for this city, the Bridge Industrial project in South Tacoma never would have even been considered. You praise her & give her high marks on anti-racist systems transformations, yet allowing this project to go ahead in South Tacoma is the most environmentally racist act & careless about equity that you can get! If it were in her neighborhood, she would not have allowed this.

I beg you, PLEASE don't reconfirm Elizabeth Pauli as City Manager of Tacoma. Tacoma deserves better, far better.

Respectfully,  
April Smith

**From:** Cathie Raine <cjrRD@hotmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, May 8, 2023 12:22 PM  
**To:** City Clerk's Office  
**Subject:** May 9th City Council Meeting (regarding the Regular Agenda: 23-0469--Re-appointment of Elizabeth Pauli to position of City Manager)

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

Dear Mayor Woodards and City Council Members:

I am deeply concerned with the decision to have Ms Pauli continue in the position of Tacoma City Manager. Ms. Pauli has exhibited a consistent pattern of lack of direct interaction and response to Tacoma residents' valid concerns and questions. Residents have repeatedly sent e-mails and letters to her to voice concerns regarding the safety of our City, the funding of critical services within the recent Biennial Budget (i.e. the funding in the original budget of 'crisis response professionals' to accompany police on domestic-related calls), and the oversight (accountability) of Tacoma City Departments that have conflicting objectives, goals and plans. In situation after situation, these attempts with communicating with Ms. Pauli have been ignored by her. Even the courtesy of a response has not been forthcoming from the Assistants and staff in the City Manager's office.

In addition, she has fostered a government climate with City Council members to also minimize responses to residents' concerns and questions. Council Members seem to interact with residents mainly in the context of City of Tacoma and Community-related organized events (also, known as "photo ops"). Many of the City Council members do not respond personally to e-mails from residents.

This City Manager has distanced herself from interactions with residents..and, therefore, has lost touch with the realities residents face living in neighborhoods in Tacoma.

Ms. Pauli has NOT followed the "Principles That Guide Us" as described at the beginning of her 2023 Performance Evaluation...that includes:

1. INTEGRITY (has exhibited lack of honesty, lack of transparency with critical information" lack of concern for use of "public resources")
2. SERVICE (exhibits lack of courtesy and empathy; the 'customer-focused' approach with municipal services seems to only refer to the outside businesses interacting with City Departments and Officials)
3. EXCELLENCE(exhibits lack of concern for oversight of Departments within City Government...i.e. The lack of concern with the Planning and Development Services Dept's permit decisions adversely affecting the goals and plans with other Dept's efforts to provide vital services to residents: massive traffic generated by massive PDS building project on the provision of adequate emergency response services and transit services to residents in a neighborhood)
4. EQUITY (exhibits poor understanding and/or lack of concern of various neighborhood's needs for services; does not ensure equitable delivery of services...especially lacking in the already over-burdened 'very-low' and 'low' equity neighborhoods in Tacoma).

Of especially notable concern is the lack of accountability with how tax dollars are spent in the neighborhood communities. There seems to be an endless stream of money spent on the creation of new positions and Departments without adequate evaluation of the effectiveness in addressing solutions to 'Equity and Human Rights'-related issues in Tacoma. Many of these additions to the budget seem to be just "window-dressing"..with little to show in results that improves the lives of Tacoma residents.

City residents already spend an incredibly high amount of taxes and fees to live in this City. Recently, an 'excise tax' was added onto the financial burden of residents without a clear (or, consistent) plan of all the areas to be funded.

The residents of Tacoma pay a high price to live here ...without receiving much in return.

It is clear that Ms. Pauli does NOT see the Tacoma residents as the City's customers..or, as her priority in her role as City Manager. Instead, she seems to view the residents as an inconsequential part of the City....as shown by her decisions to allow harmful business development practices to continue in Tacoma without consideration of the input of City residents!

Respectfully submitted,





**From:** Esther Day <Dayesther214@outlook.com>  
**Sent:** Saturday, April 29, 2023 12:36 PM  
**To:** Woodards, Victoria; Hines, John; Rumbaugh, Sarah; Blocker, Keith; Ushka, Catherine; Bushnell, Joe; Daniels, Kiara; Diaz, Olgy; Walker, Kristina; Pauli, Elizabeth; City Clerk's Office  
**Subject:** FW: did you see this?

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

---

Dear Tacoma City Councilmembers and City Managers, Planning Commission, City Clerk

I'm sure you have seen the article in the News Tribune regarding the property that Tacoma gave a tax break. This is a major lesson you should learn from and STOP THIS INSANITY.

Developers are waiting in line to do just this to our city and our tax payers. You must be more demanding for a higher percentage of housing.

See the comments I received from someone who does work in the industry and loves the Tacoma. These comments are important for you to know and make sure we are not getting taken advantage of. I had a stronger word for it and I'm sure you can imagine what word I am talking about.

Don't sell our land to developers. You need to adopt a higher standard for the provision of housing that you say we need – but we don't.

Have any of you thought about retrofitting buildings for earthquakes, have you thought about hiring REAL SCIENTISTS who can help Tacoma determine how much water we will have for all the people you anticipate bringing into Tacoma.

Our city and our water company do not have qualified scientists that can help YOU determine all this. Engineers are not SCIENTISTS.

Nuff said. Hope you take all this in and do what is right for the citizens that elected you.

Regards,  
Esther Day

---

We don't need "Home in Tacoma", we need the City of Tacoma to stop granting tax breaks. If every multi-family project in Tacoma was required to provide a minimum of 10% middle income housing and **only then receive 12 year tax break when 20% is provided we would have more affordable housing.**

Thanks,

---

Why shouldn't they now have to pay the difference now?

NewsBreak Tacoma <[hello@mynewsbreak.me](mailto:hello@mynewsbreak.me)

## Tacoma site that got tax break in 2019 for market-rate units sells for more than \$35M

By Debbie Cockrell,  
7 hours ago



A newly completed downtown apartment project has changed ownership again.

A group of townhomes also has sold in a separate transaction.

On April 21, Caesar's Luxury Apartments, 308 Tacoma Ave S., sold for \$35.35 million to RGPD LLC, whose officials are affiliated with Dobler Property Management of Tacoma.

The seller, Caesar's Luxury Apartments LLC, is affiliated with Barcelo Homes of Mercer Island.

**The site received an eight-year multifamily property tax exemption** with initial developer Glasshouse Two in 2019. Eight-year MFTEs do not require rent-restricted units, allowing development of all market-rate apartments.

The Caesar's LLC purchased the property in September 2020 from Glasshouse Two for \$3.5 million.

The seven-story, 131-unit building, completed this year, has 66 parking stalls. According to its listing on [apartments.com](https://www.apartments.com), rents range from \$1,389 for studios to \$2,557 for a two-bedroom, one-bath unit.

A separate sale involved a property developed during the Great Recession.

Pine Street Townhomes, built in 2008, became a bank-owned property in December 2009, selling the following year for a little over \$5.9 million. It last sold in January 2018 for just over \$10 million.

On April 13, the property at 2901 S. 45th St. sold for \$17 million to Pine Street Townhomes LLC, affiliated with Ethos Development of Portland, and Lombard Equities Group of San Francisco.

The seller was two [LLCs affiliated with a San Diego-based real estate investment entity](#).

Rents for the 53 units range from \$1,995 for two-bedroom units to \$3,095 for four-bedroom units.

**From:** Georgette Reuter <gee.reuter@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, May 4, 2023 11:48 PM  
**To:** City Clerk's Office  
**Subject:** Email to the Members of the Tacoma City Council  
**Attachments:** THE SOUTH TACOMA WAREHOUSE COMPLEX.docx

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

To the Members of the Tacoma City Council:

In this email to you, my husband and I would like to explain our reasons for strongly opposing Bridge Industrial's plans for a MEGA- Warehouse to be located within our City's South Tacoma neighborhood. Our main concern focuses on critical environmental issues. And since the City of Tacoma has declared a "**CLIMATE EMERGENCY**", we believe that there needs to be an Environmental Impact Statement and Health Impact Assessment before a warehouse of this magnitude be built.

Also, this is not just a South Tacoma issue. This MEG-warehouse project is a City issue that will affect all of us who call Tacoma home! **It will cause environmental damage to our air, land and water.**

#### **Environmental Injustice and Air Pollution**

The City of Tacoma's equity maps clearly show that South Tacoma already has the worst air quality, the shortest life spans and among the highest incidence of low birth rate and heart disease death rates in all of Pierce County. So WHY would you approve a project that would further damage the health of our South Tacoma citizens by allowing a 10,000 to 12,000 vehicle trips a day to and from the MEGA-warehouse??? How much air pollution will be emitted each and every day by all of those diesel trucks? Has there been a study to determine this? We ALL breathe the same air - even those of us who live in North Tacoma breathe the same air as our South Tacoma neighbors.

#### **Possible Environmental Damage to the Aquifer, Wildlife and Tree Canopy**

With water shortages becoming more and more of a problem, it makes NO sense to pave over 125 acres of Tacoma's aquifer. And, no amount of mitigation by Bridge Industrial will ever be able to compensate for the trees and wetlands that will be destroyed, the harm caused to the creeks and the displacement of wildlife. Stormwater runoff from all of the thousands of diesel trucks will flow directly into Puget Sound and cause pollution that harms our orca whales and other sea life. The 125 acres of the warehouse's concrete will soak up heat from our increasingly hot summers and cause the temperature to rise within the surrounding neighborhoods. For all of these reasons and many, many more, this area should be rezoned as a "green zone" that benefits rather than damages the health and well being of our South Tacoma neighbors.

#### **My First Hand Experience Witnessing Environmental Destruction**

Attached to this email is a letter written by my husband, Jim Reuter. The letter describes how the creek below his parents' property in Lakewood was severely damaged in 1960. It is an example of how a wrong decision was made by Fircrest City officials over 60 years ago that resulted in the destruction of Leech Creek. In an attempt to control the flow of storm runoff, the creek was altered in such a way that the spawning ground for salmon and trout was completely destroyed. All these years later, will our City officials continue to make decisions that adversely affect our precious environment?

Thank you for taking your time to read our email.  
Georgette Reuter  
Board Member of the  
North End neighborhood Council  
and James Reuter  
Retired Tacoma Photographer

# My Opposition to the SOUTH TACOMA WAREHOUSE COMPLEX [DRAFT]

Yesterday, on April 19, 2023 the **Bridge Industrial** South Tacoma mega-warehouse 2.5 million square foot complex was approved by the City of Tacoma (but not given final OK pending final arguments). I am in complete opposition to this warehouse. The City of Tacoma has declared a “climate emergency”- yet they have made a decision that will further add to the dire consequences of climate change. It makes absolutely NO SENSE that our City has waved an urgently needed Environmental Impact Statement for this project that covers 125 acres over our City’s aquifer.

The citizens of Tacoma should be alarmed by this proposed 50.5-football size (not including parking) mega-warehouse covering a large area of the South Tacoma aquifer. That is because in the future, the City of Tacoma will need to draw from the South Tacoma aquifer fresh clean water during the dry season. The current demand during some of our warmest summer months is around 10 to 20%. More importantly, this mega-warehouse will adversely affect the health and wellbeing of the people who live and work in South Tacoma. **No amount of mitigation efforts will make up for the enormous environmental damage caused by such a huge complex!**

## Street Infrastructure Concerns

To date, there is no well-planned street infrastructure that can handle up to the projected 12,000 delivery vehicles that are to daily drive to and from this mega-warehouse complex. Because heavy-laden trucks cannot use the Union Avenue overpass because of weight restrictions, the heavy trucks will need to take a detour. The City recently posted a map of the area marking the map with colored markers on directions off of SR-16 as follows: All vehicular traffic to the warehouse complex will use SR 16 using the Union Avenue exit. Then, the large diesel tractor/trailer combinations will need to take a left turn on Union Avenue past the traffic light under SR-16 overpass, down the hill and take another left turn at Center Street proceeding to the next traffic light for a right turn to South Tacoma way. Then they will need to proceed further down the hill to the next traffic light at Tacoma Public Utilities. At this intersection, trucks need to take a right turn to take a cross street to South Tacoma Way. A final right turn then takes these large rigs south towards the proposed warehouse site with no proposed entry and exit road over the railroad tracks to the warehouse parking lot and loading docks. Directions back to I-5 would be the reverse of the directions getting to the facility. The developers originally planned to use the 56<sup>th</sup> street exit for the heavy truck traffic. But that plan was evidently dropped. I have a friend that drives these big rigs, and his immediate reply was “NUTS”. He emphasized the existing roads off the freeway were not designed for the continuous around the clock use by heavy semi-trucks.

## Storm Water Runoff Concerns

Because the warehouse will be covering 125 acres of concrete and blacktop over the aquifer area, there will be a substantial storm runoff that will be directed down Flett Creek which is one of Chambers Creek tributaries. This runoff will endanger the spawning grounds for many fish species. I grew on a house located on one of Chambers Creek’s tributaries called Leach Creek. Back then in the 1960’s, the creek was spawning grounds for Steelhead and several Salmon species. The fall Salmon runs were a spectacular viewing event along Leech Creek. Also, the creek had a very healthy rainbow trout population. It was such a magical spot, that my parents invited Cub and Boy Scout troops to have camp outs on the creek’s edge.

## The Demise of Leech Creek

It was after a moderate rain event in 1960, that my father was alarmed to see the creek overflowing with brownish colored water. On further investigation, he found out that the City of Fircrest started diverting street runoff down Leach Creek. So my father then contacted the State Fisheries, and they had a water flow station installed to measure the volume of the creek. The results were very pronounced. When the spring fed creek was at its normal flow the volume of water was 7.5 cubic feet a second. Then after a moderate rain event, the flow measurement rose to 65+ cubic feet a second in a very short time. Then my father contacted some other creek property owners and the State Fisheries, and confronted the city of Fircrest. He found out that Fircrest’s plan was to create a retaining basin in order to release the storm water gradually after a moderate rainfall. But that plan turned out to be unsatisfactory.

Fircrest then proposed that Leach creek be put in a 60-inch storm sewer from the creek bed all the way to where it meets up with Chambers Creek. Property owners opposed that plan. So what happened next? The City of Fircrest dredged the whole creek with a D-9 Cat so the when water was released it would flow unimpeded to Chambers Creek. The results? All the salmon spawning grounds were destroyed along with all the habitats for all other aquatic wildlife.

### **In Summary**

I am writing about what happened to Leech Creek because I visualize a similar scenario happening to the portion of Flett Creek that runs along the South Tacoma aquifer area. If the warehouse complex is built, all of the polluted storm water runoff from the warehouse parking lot pavement could spill into Flett Creek and then flow into Puget Sound. So how will the warehouse complex treat the wastewater as the developers reported? Because, even a small amount of rainfall will require the storage of contaminated water to be treated, before it's released down Flett Creek.

For a development of this magnitude that plans to be built over Tacoma's aquifer, a **Health Impact Assessment** and also an **Environmental Impact Statement for the Bridge Industrial Mega-Warehouse plan should have been a requirement!** Yet, the City of Tacoma had those important reports waived -probably because they knew that they would create a roadblock that would put the whole mega-warehouse plan in jeopardy. Many citizens share my opinion that this last large open green space should have been converted into a park with a further addition of tree canopy, playgrounds, walking trails and possibly a Northern Pacific Railroad museum highlighting the history of the area. Understandably, converting this large area into a usable park for the South End residents to enjoy would be costly, but in the end wouldn't the environmental benefits be priceless??

The community appeal deadline is May 5<sup>th</sup>, 2023.

Can all of us concerned citizens rally to oppose this project??

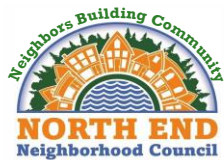
James Reuter  
80 Year Tacoma Resident  
April 30, 2023  
253.381.4900

**From:** Jodi Cook <jodicook.nenc@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, May 5, 2023 4:40 PM  
**To:** Hearing Examiner; Schultz, Shirley  
**Cc:** Emery, Nicole; Real, Chantra; Campbell, Haley; City Clerk's Office; Harding, Melanie; South Tacoma NC; <board@nenc.org>  
**Subject:** North End Neighborhood Council letter of support: Appeal File No: Lu21-0125 BNSF MDNS and Critical Area Development Permit  
**Attachments:** NENC May 5, 2023 f.docx  
  
**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

To the Tacoma Hearing Examiner; City Planning and Development Department; City Manager; City Council.

On behalf of the North End Neighborhood Council, we submit this letter of support to the efforts of our sister South Tacoma Neighborhood Council and Earth Justice in their Appeal to Tacoma Hearing Examiner and City Planner Shirley Schultz.

Respectfully, NENC Board



VIA EMAIL:

May 5, 2023

hearing.examiner@cityoftacoma.org

sschultz@cityoftacoma.org

shirley.schultz@cityoftacoma.org

Cc: [cityclerk@cityoftacoma.org](mailto:cityclerk@cityoftacoma.org); [melanie.harding@cityoftacoma.org](mailto:melanie.harding@cityoftacoma.org);

[HCampbell2@cityoftacoma.org](mailto:HCampbell2@cityoftacoma.org)

[CReal@cityoftacoma.org](mailto:CReal@cityoftacoma.org)

[nemery@cityoftacoma.org](mailto:nemery@cityoftacoma.org)

Hearing Examiner

City of Tacoma

747 Market Street, Room 720

Tacoma, WA 98402

RE: NOTICE OF APPEAL FILE NO: LU21-0125 BNSF Tacoma (Bridge Industrial) MDNS and Critical Area Development Permit

Date: May 5, 2023

To the Tacoma Hearing Examiner; City Manager and City Council:

The North End Neighborhood Council is committed to supporting the health and welfare of the entire Tacoma community. It must be noted that the impacts of the proposed project extend beyond the property boundary. The traffic and the air quality impacts extend throughout the city and, in fact, throughout the South Sound.

The proposed project would construct approximately 2.5million square feet of warehouse space and generate thousands of vehicle trips, many by diesel engine trucks.

The South Sound has been identified as having poor air quality that will be further degraded by the emissions from these thousands of diesel engines.

Diesel engine emissions emit particulates characterized as PM 2.5. that is 2.5 microns in diameter, these minute particles contain many chemicals known to be deleterious to human health and their minute size allow them to lodge deeply in the human lung. Because of the long operating life of diesel engines the level of emissions is not projected to significantly decline within the next decade and perhaps beyond.

The scientific literature is replete with thousands of articles documenting the diseases and other conditions caused by diesel emissions including cancers, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD), asthma, heart disease, reproductive illness, low birth weight, and brain illnesses\*. It must be noted that these effects are more severe for children, pregnant women, the elderly and those with impaired respiratory and immune systems.

The City's evaluation of the effects of the Bridge Industrial project is totally lacking any consideration of the effects of degraded air quality on both the environment and the health of the community and lacks any meaningful, enforceable measures to limit or reduce the number of vehicle trips and their effects.

The City's determination that a mitigated Determination of Nonsignificance (MDNS) meets the requirements of SEPA is factually unsupportable. A complete Environmental Impact Statement including a full evaluation of the impact of further degradation of air quality on human health are required.

Respectfully, The North End Neighborhood Council Board Members



#### Citations:

\*<https://www.taylorfrancis.com/chapters/edit/10.1201/9780367456252-23/cardiovascular-illnesses-caused-diesel-fuel-exhaust-emissions-ozcan-konur>

#### Review

Biochemical and physiological effects from exhaust emissions. A review of the relevant literature

Author links open overlay panelSergio Manzetti <sup>a</sup>, Otto Andersen <sup>b</sup>

Show more

Add to Mendeley

Share

Cite

<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.pathophys.2016.10.002>[Get rights and content](#)

#### Abstract

Exhaust emissions are to date ranked among the most frequent causes of premature deaths worldwide. The combustion of fuels such as diesel, gasoline, and bio-blends provokes a series of pathophysiological responses in exposed subjects, which are associated with biochemical and immunological triggering. It is critical to understand these mechanisms, which are directly related to the levels of aerosol, liquid and gaseous components in fuel exhaust (*e.g.* nanoparticles, particulate matter, volatile compounds), so to cast attention on their toxicity and gradually minimize their use. This review reports findings in the recent literature concerning the biochemical and cellular pathways triggered during intoxication by exhaust emissions, and links these findings to pathophysiological responses such as inflammation and vasoconstriction. This study provides critical *in vitro* and *in vivo* data for the reduction of emissions in urban centers, with an emphasis on the prevention of exposure of groups such as children, the elderly, and other affected groups, and shows how the exposure to exhaust emissions induces mechanisms of pathogenesis related to cardiopulmonary pathologies and long-term diseases such as asthma, allergies, and cancer. This review summarizes the cellular and physiological responses of humans to exhaust emissions in a comprehensive fashion, and is important for legislative developments in fuel politics.

Respectfully, the North End Neighborhood Council Board

**From:** Flores, Katie <katie.flores@soundtransit.org>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 9, 2023 10:02 AM  
**To:** Woodards, Victoria; Hines, John; Rumbaugh, Sarah; Blocker, Keith; Ushka, Catherine; Bushnell, Joe; Daniels, Kiara; Diaz, Olgy; Walker, Kristina  
**Cc:** Constantine, Dow; Keel, Kent; Email The Board; Timm, Julie; Avila-Mooney, Carrie; Austin, Andrew; McLeod, Rosa; City Clerk's Office  
**Subject:** Sound Transit Response to Tacoma City Council letter  
**Attachments:** Sound Transit Response to Tacoma City Council 05-08-2023.pdf  
  
**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

Good evening,

I am sending the attached letter on behalf of Sound Transit Board Chair Dow Constantine and Vice Chair Kent Keel in response to the letter from the Tacoma City Council on March 8<sup>th</sup>.

**Katie Flores**

Board Administrator  
Pronouns: She/Her  
Executive Department, Sound Transit  
(206) 398-5341  
[katie.flores@soundtransit.org](mailto:katie.flores@soundtransit.org)



May 8, 2023

Mayor Woodards and Tacoma City Council  
747 Market Street  
Tacoma, WA 98402

**Subject: Response to delays in light rail connections to Pierce County**

Dear Mayor Woodards and members of the Tacoma City Council:

Thank you for sharing your concerns about the anticipated delay to Tacoma Dome Link Extension in your March 8th letter to the Sound Transit Board.

We assure you that we are fully committed to delivering regional light rail to Tacoma and completing the long-envisioned light rail spine between Tacoma and Everett. Pierce County has been waiting many years to be connected to the regional system.

Sound Transit is also committed to continuing to provide high quality transit service to the South Sound between now and the 2030s. As your letter astutely notes, we have operated three modes of transit: ST Express bus, T-line light rail, and Sounder commuter rail service for nearly 20 years in Pierce County. This service has carried hundreds of thousands of people to and from and within Pierce County for work, school, and wherever else they travel.

In response to a few of your specific requests:

- In 2021, Sound Transit funded more ST Express service to and from Pierce County. It was clear during the pandemic that front line workers and residents continued to rely on South Sound ST Express routes. Unfortunately, the national and local driver shortage prevented those service increases from being realized. We will continue to work closely with Pierce Transit and assist however we can to address the operator shortage. This additional service is still funded, and we will increase trips when staffing levels allow. Based on current information from Pierce Transit, we anticipate it will take multiple years to reach targeted service levels.
- Sounder rail has experienced a slow return of ridership from the pandemic; Sounder is still at approximately 31% of peak (2019) ridership. The voter approved ST3 plan included a nearly \$1 billion investment to expand capacity on Sounder South. Prior to the COVID-19 shutdowns, the Sound Transit Board directed staff to develop a plan to focus investments on increasing capacity on existing trips. Longer trains were identified to address high demand on our commuter-oriented rail service.

**CHAIR**

**Dow Constantine**  
*King County Executive*

**VICE CHAIRS**

**Kent Keel**  
*University Place Councilmember*

**Dave Somers**  
*Snohomish County Executive*

**BOARD MEMBERS**

**Nancy Backus**  
*Auburn Mayor*

**David Baker**  
*Kenmore Councilmember*

**Claudia Balducci**  
*King County Councilmember*

**Bruce Dammeier**  
*Pierce County Executive*

**Cassie Franklin**  
*Everett Mayor*

**Christine Frizzell**  
*Lynnwood Mayor*

**Bruce Harrell**  
*Seattle Mayor*

**Debora Juarez**  
*Seattle Council President*

**Joe McDermott**  
*King County Councilmember*

**Roger Millar**  
*Washington State Secretary of Transportation*

**Ed Prince**  
*Renton Councilmember*

**Kim Roscoe**  
*Fife Mayor*

**Dave Upthegrove**  
*King County Council Chair*

**Peter von Reichbauer**  
*King County Councilmember*

**Kristina Walker**  
*Tacoma Deputy Mayor*

**CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER**

**Julie E. Timm**

Ridership patterns are changing since the pandemic. As such, this spring, the Sound Transit Board will consider updating the strategic plan for Sounder capacity investments. This work includes rebooting a Corridor Leadership Forum (CLF) of elected officials representing Sounder S Line Communities. We would appreciate continued participation from the Tacoma City Council in this workgroup. We look forward to digging into this work with my fellow Boardmembers and partners, including the City of Tacoma.

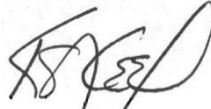
- We look for opportunities for partnerships with cities and local transit agencies to access our stations through walking, biking, local transit and micro-transit. We are also proud to fund \$60M local dollars for Pierce Transit's Pacific Avenue Stream BRT project, which will increase local access to the Tacoma Dome Station, and are excited to keep moving forward on the South Tacoma Sounder Access improvements. We look forward to future discussions on continuing to improve access to our high-capacity transit stations.

Thank you for your commitment to expanding transportation options in the Central and South Sound. We look forward to advancing many of these ideas, and importantly the Tacoma Dome Link Extension project, with your cooperation and partnership. In the meantime, we will see you later this year as we celebrate the opening of the Hilltop Tacoma Link Extension.

Sincerely,



Executive Dow Constantine  
Sound Transit Board Chair



Councilmember Kent Keel  
Sound Transit Board Vice Chair

cc: Sound Transit Board of Directors  
Julie Timm, CEO Sound Transit

MAY 9, 2023

TO: MAYOR WOODARDS, CITY MANAGER PAULI, CITY  
ATTORNEY FOSBRE AND ALL MEMBERS OF TALOMAS CITY  
COUNCIL

SUBJECT: RESERVATIONS SYSTEMS AS PART OF GENOCIDE  
PLAN:

Europeans were told that America was a "New World" they thought that was largely "uninhabited" and there "for the taking". No one told them that they would have to clear the land of Indians by killing them and as an alternative the "reservation system" - which was in essence a concentration camp without barbed wire.

A "super reservation" was set up as "INDIAN TERRITORY" in what is now Oklahoma for Indians East of the Mississippi. The tribes were forced marched under Army escort many of thousand miles in which a third of the Indians died - a sort of Indian death march - similar to the Bataan death march of POWs in the Philippines in WW II. All the tribes were lumped together and the smaller ones were lost. Later Indian Territory was taken away when oil and minerals were found.

The Indians were given the least fertile land even though "the plan" was for them to give up hunting and become farmers. To speed up the process millions of buffalo were -

CONT PAGE 2

Killed to the brink of extinction! Hunting and fishing land was taken away also. Many thousands of Indians died then and even now on these desolate reservations. And given the restrictions from them leaving or "going off the reservation" there is an implied intention motive of decimating the Indian population (genocide).

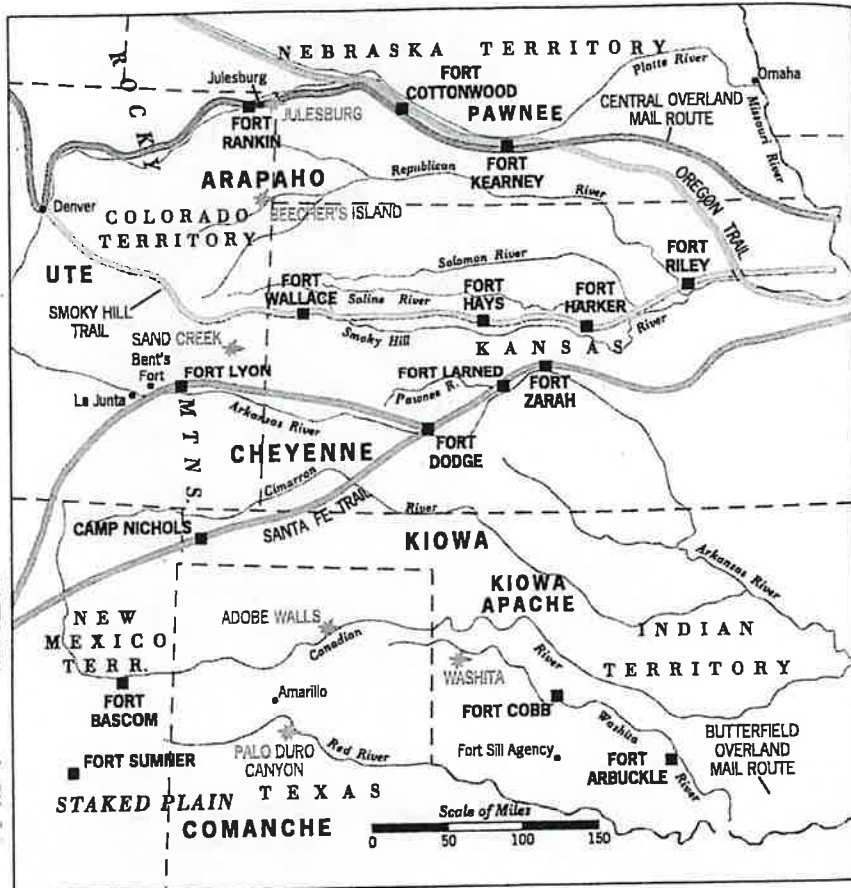
Many tribes were forced to move two or three or more times as the boundaries of the reservations were constantly changing and some smaller tribes were lost in this way.

Those that left the reservation were considered hostile and subject to being killed by the Army or white settlers. The reservations were "off-limits" to the settlers and offered the Indians a measure of safety.

Some Indians would attempt to leave the reservation temporarily or permanently. Because of this GENERAL SHERMAN (Army Chief of Staff post Civil War) had The U.S. Army by an Act of Congress assume control of the reservations from the Indian Bureau. This was even more evidence that the reservations were "Concentration Camps without barbed wire" but with Army guards! Native American Genocide was a logical process.

Michelle Reich







**From:** Email The Board <EmailTheBoard@soundtransit.org>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 9, 2023 2:24 PM  
**To:** Hines, John; Rumbaugh, Sarah; Blocker, Keith; Ushka, Catherine; Bushnell, Joe; Daniels, Kiara; Diaz, Olgy; Walker, Kristina; Woodards, Victoria  
**Cc:** Email The Board; Timm, Julie; McLeod, Rosa; City Clerk's Office; Austin, Andrew  
**Subject:** Sound Transit Response to Tacoma City Council - Delays in Light Rail Connections to Pierce County  
**Attachments:** Sound Transit Response to Tacoma City Council 05-08-2023.pdf

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

Greetings Mayor Woodards and Tacoma City Councilmembers,

On behalf of the Sound Transit Board of Directors, thank you for your letter to the Board regarding concerns about Tacoma Dome Link Extension delays. We appreciate hearing from our close partner jurisdictions and take your concerns very seriously. Attached is the Sound Transit Board's response to your letter.

Thank you,

[Adam Montee](#)

Program Manager – Board Administration

Pronouns: He/Him/His

Executive Department

Sound Transit

W 206-553-3656



Connect with us!





May 8, 2023

Mayor Woodards and Tacoma City Council  
747 Market Street  
Tacoma, WA 98402

**Subject: Response to delays in light rail connections to Pierce County**

Dear Mayor Woodards and members of the Tacoma City Council:

Thank you for sharing your concerns about the anticipated delay to Tacoma Dome Link Extension in your March 8th letter to the Sound Transit Board.

We assure you that we are fully committed to delivering regional light rail to Tacoma and completing the long-envisioned light rail spine between Tacoma and Everett. Pierce County has been waiting many years to be connected to the regional system.

Sound Transit is also committed to continuing to provide high quality transit service to the South Sound between now and the 2030s. As your letter astutely notes, we have operated three modes of transit: ST Express bus, T-line light rail, and Sounder commuter rail service for nearly 20 years in Pierce County. This service has carried hundreds of thousands of people to and from and within Pierce County for work, school, and wherever else they travel.

In response to a few of your specific requests:

- In 2021, Sound Transit funded more ST Express service to and from Pierce County. It was clear during the pandemic that front line workers and residents continued to rely on South Sound ST Express routes. Unfortunately, the national and local driver shortage prevented those service increases from being realized. We will continue to work closely with Pierce Transit and assist however we can to address the operator shortage. This additional service is still funded, and we will increase trips when staffing levels allow. Based on current information from Pierce Transit, we anticipate it will take multiple years to reach targeted service levels.
- Sounder rail has experienced a slow return of ridership from the pandemic; Sounder is still at approximately 31% of peak (2019) ridership. The voter approved ST3 plan included a nearly \$1 billion investment to expand capacity on Sounder South. Prior to the COVID-19 shutdowns, the Sound Transit Board directed staff to develop a plan to focus investments on increasing capacity on existing trips. Longer trains were identified to address high demand on our commuter-oriented rail service.

**CHAIR**

**Dow Constantine**  
*King County Executive*

**VICE CHAIRS**

**Kent Keel**  
*University Place Councilmember*

**Dave Somers**  
*Snohomish County Executive*

**BOARD MEMBERS**

**Nancy Backus**  
*Auburn Mayor*

**David Baker**  
*Kenmore Councilmember*

**Claudia Balducci**  
*King County Councilmember*

**Bruce Dammeier**  
*Pierce County Executive*

**Cassie Franklin**  
*Everett Mayor*

**Christine Frizzell**  
*Lynnwood Mayor*

**Bruce Harrell**  
*Seattle Mayor*

**Debora Juarez**  
*Seattle Council President*

**Joe McDermott**  
*King County Councilmember*

**Roger Millar**  
*Washington State Secretary  
of Transportation*

**Ed Prince**  
*Renton Councilmember*

**Kim Roscoe**  
*Fife Mayor*

**Dave Upthegrove**  
*King County Council Chair*

**Peter von Reichbauer**  
*King County Councilmember*

**Kristina Walker**  
*Tacoma Deputy Mayor*

**CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER**

**Julie E. Timm**

Ridership patterns are changing since the pandemic. As such, this spring, the Sound Transit Board will consider updating the strategic plan for Sounder capacity investments. This work includes rebooting a Corridor Leadership Forum (CLF) of elected officials representing Sounder S Line Communities. We would appreciate continued participation from the Tacoma City Council in this workgroup. We look forward to digging into this work with my fellow Boardmembers and partners, including the City of Tacoma.

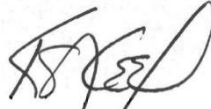
- We look for opportunities for partnerships with cities and local transit agencies to access our stations through walking, biking, local transit and micro-transit. We are also proud to fund \$60M local dollars for Pierce Transit's Pacific Avenue Stream BRT project, which will increase local access to the Tacoma Dome Station, and are excited to keep moving forward on the South Tacoma Sounder Access improvements. We look forward to future discussions on continuing to improve access to our high-capacity transit stations.

Thank you for your commitment to expanding transportation options in the Central and South Sound. We look forward to advancing many of these ideas, and importantly the Tacoma Dome Link Extension project, with your cooperation and partnership. In the meantime, we will see you later this year as we celebrate the opening of the Hilltop Tacoma Link Extension.

Sincerely,



Executive Dow Constantine  
Sound Transit Board Chair



Councilmember Kent Keel  
Sound Transit Board Vice Chair

cc: Sound Transit Board of Directors  
Julie Timm, CEO Sound Transit