



PRESENTATIONS and HANDOUTS

Regular Meeting on January 20, 2016

- 1. Letter from Transportation Commission to Council's Infrastructure, Planning and Sustainability Committee, January 14, 2016, regarding "Sound Transit 3 Comments regarding Sound Transit Board Workshop"**
(Handout; for Communication Item E-4)





City of Tacoma
Transportation Commission

January 14, 2016

Ryan Mello, Chair
Infrastructure, Planning, and Sustainability Council Committee
747 Market Street, Suite 1200
Tacoma, WA 98402

Re: Sound Transit 3 Comments regarding Sound Transit Board Workshop

Dear Chair Mello,

The Transportation Commission received a presentation from Sound Transit on December 16, 2015 regarding an update on the ST3 project priority process. The presentation outlined the ST3 candidate projects that were presented to the Sound Transit Board at a December 4, 2015 workshop. Sound Transit has asked the City to provide comments and acknowledgment of the December 4, 2015 workshop. With this letter, the Transportation Commission respectfully submits our recommendations to the Infrastructure, Planning, and Sustainability Committee for consideration.

The Commission was pleased to see all the projects recommended in our July 7, 2015 letter to you were included in the review process for consideration and remain candidates moving forward. For reference, those projects are listed below.

- S-03, 05 Central Link to the Tacoma Mall, which includes Tacoma Dome Station
- S-06, 07, 08 Sounder Platform, Span and Frequency expansion
- S-11 Tacoma Link Extension to Tacoma Community College
- P-01 Future System Planning (ST4)

The Transportation Commission continues to support the projects previously outlined in the July 7, 2015 letter because they support our values and principles of greater multi-mobility for Tacoma residents and employees. They also help ensure implementation of Transportation Master Plan projects and priorities. The City of Tacoma should continue to support these projects in their letter to Sound Transit.

In addition to the listed projects above, the Commission supports S-012, Bus Capital improvements along Pacific Avenue/SR7. This project was added to the candidate list later in the summer after the Commission's last review. Pierce Transit will lead this project for future implementation of Bus Rapid Transit from Downtown Tacoma to Spanaway along the Pacific Avenue Corridor, a priority outlined in the TMP.

Finally, the Commission recognizes there may not be enough revenue generated in ST3 to complete all the projects. The Commission feels strongly that it is a high priority for Sound

Tacoma Transportation Commission
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Transit to extend Central Link to Tacoma Dome. There were two alignment alternatives presented to the Commission: HWY 99 vs. I-5. While a HWY 99 alignment may make more sense for Transit Oriented Development and urban growth north of the Pierce/King County line, the Commission sees no added value in a HWY 99 alignment over I-5 because the two corridors are so close together. Not only does this alignment show a Portland Avenue station location, but it also is estimated to cost over a half billion dollars less than a HWY 99 alignment. Because of this, Sound Transit would be able to build out additional Pierce County priorities.

The Commission appreciates the opportunity to provide the City its expertise and counsel on these very important issues that will transform our City in a positive way.

Sincerely,



Jane Ann Moore
Co-Chair



Justin D. Leighton
Co-Chair

cc: Mayor Marilyn Strickland
Tacoma City Councilmembers
Tacoma City Manager
Chris Beale, Planning Commission Chair
Chelsea Levy, Sound Transit