

MERCER CORRIDOR STAKEHOLDER COMMITTEE

July 20, 2020

Senator Patty Murray
154 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Murray:

We write to you as businesses and community organizations that understand the importance of transportation to the vitality of communities across the State of Washington. COVID-19 has stressed our transit systems and services and underscored the importance of maintaining a resilient, multimodal transportation system that is built for the long term.

As organizations with footprints in Seattle – including Uptown, South Lake Union, and Denny Triangle through Downtown and South Downtown neighborhoods – we have successfully worked with local, state, and federal agencies to make substantial investments in our transportation network. These efforts have helped to fuel unprecedented economic growth and job creation throughout the region. We believe federal stimulus investments made during the last recession, which provided the final push needed to modernize Mercer Street, have been particularly impactful.

Today, we encourage you to prioritize the following projects to accelerate the COVID-19 recovery, allow greater mobility for all of our citizens, and promote sustained economic growth:

- **Sound Transit 3** – COVID impacts are imperiling the on-time delivery of the much-needed Westlake, Denny, South Lake Union, and Seattle Center stations.
- **SR 520/I-5 Express Lanes** – This Washington State Department of Transportation project, which would connect express lanes on SR 520 and I-5 to Mercer Street, was set to begin construction in 2020. The project faces an uncertain future due to the passage of I-976 and COVID-19 budget shortfalls.
- **Inter-neighborhood connections** – Transit connections that link Seattle’s urban centers are critical to returning people to work and rebuilding the economy. This should include **RapidRide** projects that will provide frequent all-day transit service; the **Center City Connector**, linking Seattle’s two streetcar lines through the downtown core; and the **Seattle Monorail**, which is a critical transit connection between downtown transit hubs and the Seattle Center. The **West Seattle Bridge** must also be repaired or replaced.

Also, thank you for passage of the CARES ACT, which provides critical emergency funding for public transit agencies hit hard by COVID-19. We know that continued system and service investments are needed to address the current crisis and ensure long-lasting capacity.

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We appreciate your ongoing support for funding that meets the transportation needs of Washington residents, community organizations, and businesses.

Sincerely,

David D'Hondt Executive Vice President AGC of Washington	Brian K. Surratt Assistant Vice President Alexandria Real Estate	Paul Wahnoutka Sr. Director, Operations Allen Institute
Lisa Howard Executive Director Alliance for Pioneer Square	Cary Clark Chief Strategy Officer Argosy Cruises	Howard Anderson Chair Denny Triangle Neighborhood Association
Jon Scholes President and CEO Downtown Seattle Association	Richard de Sam Lazaro Manager, Government Affairs Expedia Group	Ian Goodhew Head of External Relations, Pacific Northwest Region Google
John Kane President/CEO Kane Environmental, Inc	Tom Mara Executive Director KEXP	John B. Gillespie Vice President Kilroy Realty Corporation
Daniel P. Meyers Sr. Vice President, Project Management Madison Marquette	Alexis Lee Executive Director MoPOP - Museum of Pop Culture	Rob Johnson VP – Transportation and Sustainability NHL Seattle
Marty Griswold Executive Director One Reel	Stan McNaughton Chairman, President & CEO PEMCO Mutual Insurance Company	Jim Alkove Chief Trust Officer Salesforce
Todd Leber Chair Seattle Center Advisory Commission	H.S. Wright Chairman & Founder Seattle Hospitality Group	Markham McIntyre Executive Vice President Seattle Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce
Christina Scheppelmann General Director Seattle Opera	Jeffrey Herrmann Managing Director Seattle Rep	Danah Abarr Executive Director South Lake Union Chamber of Commerce

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Kristine A. Logan President South Lake Union Community Council	Ron Severt CEO Space Needle and Chihuly Garden & Glass	Adam Selipsky CEO and President Tableau
Alex Hudson Executive Director Transportation Choice Coalition	Rick Hooper President Uptown Alliance	Shawn Jackson Vice President, Regional General Manager, Seattle Urban Renaissance Group LLC
Ada Healy Chief Real Estate Officer Vulcan Inc.	Mark Barbieri Executive Vice President Washington Holdings	Gregory K. Johnson CEO Wright Runstad & Company

CC:

Mayor Durkan
Full Seattle City Council
Sam Zimbabwe, Director Seattle Department of Transportation
King County Executive Constantine
Full County Council
Rob Gannon, General Manager King County Metro
Roger Millar, Secretary of Transportation, WSDOT
Peter Rogoff, Chief Executive Officer, Sound Transit