August 3, 2021

Kent Keel
Chair, Board of Directors
Sound Transit
401 S. Jackson St.
Seattle, WA 98104

Re: Support for ST3 Hybrid Realignment Proposal

Dear Chair Keel and the Sound Transit Board of Directors:

The Sound Transit 3 realignment process has enormous implications for our region's collective ability to meet goals for sustainability, equality, and economic inclusivity. Members of the Mercer Stakeholders and its partners urge the Sound Transit Board to consider the hybrid realignment approach that commits to meeting or exceeding the approved ST3 plan and does not recant on promises made to voters.

In July 2021, Sound Transit staff released updated budget projections indicating forecasted revenues have recovered to pre-pandemic levels. This dramatic recovery illustrates the

resilience and continued growth of the Puget Sound region and underscores the need for high-speed transit.

While the news of revenue recovery is positive, cost increases and flawed cost methodology continue to increase budget shortfalls. The realignment process must close this gap without shortchanging the regional vision for inclusive, healthy, and vibrant communities.

Members of the Mercer Stakeholders support Boardmember Balducci's approach that:

- Engages the public and station-area stakeholders in meaningful and transparent dialogue, which to date has been limited.
- Exercises deliberate and thoughtful decision-making on a step-by-step basis as more is understood about cost drivers and cost containment, funding, protective land acquisition costs, and financing.
- Addresses the affordability gap through new oversight and accountability measures and employs a technical advisory committee to provide independent expertise.
- Fervently pursues creative financing options and state and federal funding opportunities.

We appreciate your commitment and look forward to collaborating with Sound Transit to deliver ST3 to our region and its transit riders.

Sincerely,

Danah Abarr
Executive Director
SLU Chamber

Zach Carstensen
Sr. Manager, Government Affairs
Salesforce

Cary Clark
Partner- Owner
Argosy Cruises

David D'Hondt
Executive Vice President
AGC of Washington

Amy H. Fulford
President, SIFF Board of Directors
SIFF

John B. Gillespie
Vice President, Construction Services
Kilroy Realty Corporation

Ian Goodhew
Head of Government and External Relations
Google

Ada Healey
Chief Real Estate Officer
Vulcan Inc.

Jeffrey Herrmann
Managing Director
Seattle Rep

Rick Hooper
Chair
Uptown Alliance

Jonathan Hopkins
Executive Director
Seattle Subway

Alex Hudson
Executive Director
Transportation Choices Coalition

Steve Huebner
Chief Financial Officer
Seattle Cancer Care Alliance

Ellen Monrad
Chair
Queen Anne Community Council

Lora Radford
Executive Director
West Seattle Junction Association

Richard de Sam Lazaro
Senior Manager, Government and
Community
Expedia Group

Jon Scholes
President and CEO
Downtown Seattle Association

John T. Slattery, Ph.D.
Vice Dean, Research and Graduate Education
UW Medicine

Mike Stewart
Executive Director
Ballard Alliance

Eugene Wasserman
President
North Seattle Industrial Association

Tom Mara
Executive Director
KEXP

Guy Palumbo
Director, Public Policy
Amazon

Stuart Rolfe
President
Wright Hotels Inc.

Christina Scheppelmann
General Director
Seattle Opera

Monisha Singh
Executive Director
Chinatown-International District Business
Improvement Area

Rachel Smith
President and CEO
Seattle Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce

Ellen Walker
Executive Director
Pacific Northwest Ballet

Jane Zalutsky
Executive Director
Seattle Center Foundation

Cc:
King County Council Chair Claudia Balducci, Sound Transit Board Member
King County Executive Dow Constantine, Sound Transit Board Vice Chair
City of Seattle Mayor Jenny Durkan, Sound Transit Board Member
Roger Millar, Secretary of Transportation, Washington State Department of Transportation,
Sound Transit Board Member
Peter Rogoff, CEO, Sound Transit
Terry White, General Manager, King County Metro
Sam Zimbabwe, Director, Seattle Department of Transportation