

August 27, 2021

Linda Gehrke
FTA Administrator, Region 10 Office
Federal Transit Administration
915 Second Avenue, Suite 3142
Seattle, WA 98174

Peter Rogoff
CEO, Sound Transit
401 South Jackson Street
Seattle, WA 98104

Re: Request for Extended DEIS Comment Period for Sound Transit's West Seattle and Ballard Link Extensions

Dear Ms. Gehrke and Mr. Rogoff,

Thank you for your work with Sound Transit to build high-speed transit in Seattle and the Puget Sound. Sound Transit 3 and the West Seattle and Ballard Link Extensions will profoundly shape our region for the better for generations to come. As Sound Transit prepares to release the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS), the Mercer Stakeholders and its partners kindly request an extended comment period of a minimum of 90 days.

Sound Transit's West Seattle and Ballard Link Extension is one of the largest projects of its kind in the nation, comprising 13 new stations and nearly 12 additional miles of light rail. Proper analysis of the preferred and alternative alignments will require extensive planning and due diligence. The DEIS will be a highly technical document that will reflect the depth and complexity of this work and demand careful consideration by all those involved.

As neighborhood organizations, property owners, businesses, residents, and institutions, we applaud the work of Sound Transit and the Federal Transit Administration to deliver high-capacity transit to riders as quickly and efficiently as possible. However, an adequate public process must allow time for the public to review the DEIS to provide thoughtful input.

What's more—the pandemic caused unavoidable challenges and limited opportunities for community engagement. The DEIS will be the first opportunity for community members to review potential station locations, early conceptual design, construction

impacts, and other impacts to public rights-of-way, cultural institutions, private properties, and businesses.

A proper review of the DEIS will require time for the community to review the document and understand the project complexities. Please consider extending the DEIS comment period to at least 90 days to allow for adequate community input.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Danah Abarr
Executive Director
SLU Chamber

Michelle Bufano
Executive Director
Chihuly Garden and Glass

Amy Fulford
SIFF Board President
SIFF

Ada Healey
Chief Real Estate Officer
Vulcan Inc.

Rick Hooper
Chair
Uptown Alliance

Zeb Keck
Director - Construction & Development
Schnitzer West, LLC

Alexis Lee
Executive Director
MUSEUM OF POP CULTURE

Ellen Monrad
Chair
Queen Anne Community Council

Christina Scheppelmann
General Director
Seattle Opera

Stephanie Ballard
President
Magnolia Community Council

Cary Clark
Partner- Owner
Argosy Cruises

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

Jeffrey Herrmann
Managing Director
Seattle Rep

Alex Hudson
Executive Director
Transportation Choices Coalition

Todd Leber
Chair
Seattle Center Advisory Commission

Thomas Mara
Executive Director
KEXP

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

Jon Scholes
President and CEO
Downtown Seattle Association

Ron Severt
CEO
Space Needle

Monisha Singh
Executive Director
Chinatown-International District Business
Improvement Area

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

Rachel Smith
President and CEO
Seattle Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce

Mike Stewart
Executive Director
Ballard Alliance

Marjorie Thomas
CFO
Allen Institute

Eugene Wasserman
President
North Seattle Industrial Association

Jane Zalutsky
Executive Director
Seattle Center Foundation

Cc:

Sound Transit Board of Directors
King County Executive Dow Constantine
City of Seattle Mayor Jenny Durkan
Terry White, General Manager, King County Metro
Sam Zimbabwe, Director, Seattle Department of Transportation