

July 19, 2021

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

Re: ST3 Realignment – Proposed amendment to project tier assignments in R2021-05

Dear Chair Keel,

As members of the Pierce County delegation of the Sound Transit Board of Directors, we would like to submit for your consideration an amendment to the proposed Resolution No. R2021-05, which details a flexible framework for program realignment in response to a \$6.5 billion affordability gap.

We have significant concerns regarding placement of Tacoma Dome Link Parking in Tier 4 of the realignment schedule, which would deliver parking in 2040, ten years after the voter-approved completion date of 2030 and eight years after the 2032 delayed delivery of the TDLE stations. The Tacoma Dome Link Extension not only connects Pierce County to the existing light rail system, but will help provide access to the Puyallup Tribal Reservation. Parking structures are vital further south where there is more sprawl and less density. Prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, the existing transit garages in Pierce County were already being utilized to capacity and would be further strained with the addition of stations lacking dedicated parking. There is no existing transit parking at the future locations for the Fife and South Federal Way stations, creating an increased sense of urgency to implement the voter-approved parking plan closer to the timeline for station delivery.

In a letter the Board received during the June 24<sup>th</sup> Board of Directors meeting, the Puyallup Tribe of Indians expressed similar concerns regarding delayed parking, noting that their garage adjacent to the future Fife Station often operates at capacity and needs to be preserved for customers of their economic development enterprises. We must take into careful consideration the potential impact a lack of dedicated station parking will have on the Tribe and decrease the delay in whatever capacity is possible.

With all of this considered, we are proposing to delay the Sounder Added Trips project by an additional year to enable moving Tacoma Dome Link Parking up two years, changing the estimated completion date of the parking structures for the Fife and South Federal Way Stations from 2040 to 2038 and moving the parking project from Tier 4 to Tier 3. With this amendment, Sounder Added Trips would remain in Tier 3, but the estimated completion date would change from 2045 to 2046. There would be no substantive financial impacts to the agency or subarea finances because the changes would offset each other.

We hope that future financial projections continue to reveal a decrease in the affordability gap and that we are able to take advantage of realignment's flexible framework approach to further reduce delay of Tacoma Dome Link Parking and other projects. In the interim, we present this amendment to R2021-05 to reflect what we consider to be a more appropriate assignment of tiers in the delayed realignment schedule. Thank you for your review and consideration.


Sincerely,



Bruce Dammeier  
Board Member,  
Finance and Audit  
Committee Vice Chair



Kim Roscoe  
Board Member,  
System Expansion  
Committee Vice Chair



Victoria Woodards  
Board Member