

9/8/2022 System Expansion Committee
Meeting Written Public Comment
Submissions

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System Expansion Committee:

I am interested to hear if you are actively considering the feasibility of launching the East Link extension on a partial basis from South Bellevue Park and Ride to Redmond Tech Center in 2023 as originally scheduled. I know several citizen advocacy groups are promoting this as an option in light of the delays to the full extension.

I believe a partial opening would have many advantages. They would include but not be limited to: valuable real use experience for Sound Transit and users of the system; real connectivity for many Eastside residents to and from Eastside work locations, major events, normal transit; developing a potentially strong user base as soon as possible, and helping reinforce confidence in Sound Transit by not letting a major completed section of the East Link to lay dormant and unused for such an extended period – visible every day .

I realize there would be a number of impediments to launching a partial opening not the least of which would be determining how best to address cross Lake Washington commutes without the light rail link and how best to terminate the line at either end and maintain the trains without access to Seattle. However, I would join those who would request that you strongly consider the partial opening option.

I appreciate the opportunity to comment and consider this proposal.

Best regards,
Tom McGovern
Redmond, WA