

City of
Bellevue



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Staff Ltr

March 8, 2010

The Honorable Aaron Reardon, Chair
Sound Transit Board of Directors
401 South Jackson Street
Seattle, WA 98104

Re: Bellevue's Preference and Key Interests Related to East Link's B Segment

Dear Chair Reardon,

I am writing on behalf of the Bellevue Council to thank you and the Sound Transit Board for the February 11 joint workshop with the Bellevue Council and to provide additional follow-up on the Council's ongoing discussions of the B segment.

The workshop provided a good start for ongoing discussions about Bellevue's and Sound Transit's key objectives for this important light rail extension project. Consistent with our shared direction from February, we are pleased with the progress made thus far with the follow-up discussions between Mr. Sarkozy and Ms. Earl, and look forward to receiving information very soon providing a decision "menu" to address the funding gap for the C9T alternative.

As you are aware, the Bellevue Council has continued to discuss the alternatives for the B segment. The issues that were important to the City and the community a year ago remain important today, such as: optimizing ridership, accommodating parking and connections to transit; protecting environmentally sensitive areas, minimizing impacts on city street operations; and protecting the character and livability of existing neighborhoods.

The elections in November have resulted in a change in the Council's preference in the B segment. A majority of the Council now favor the B7 alternative. While we appreciate Sound Transit's willingness to consider the Council's B7 modified alternative, based on information and feedback we have received, we do not think Sound Transit should continue to evaluate this option.

The City understands that the final environmental impact statement won't be completed until the end of the year, and that Sound Transit cannot make a final alignment decision until that work is completed. This environmental process should be used to answer questions about noise, costs, environmental, ecosystem, wetland, construction, and traffic impacts for all of the B alternatives. Because this and other information that Sound Transit is developing for the FEIS will enable the City Council and Sound Transit to reach a final conclusion about alignment, it would be helpful if the City could have access to this information as soon as it is available.

In conclusion, I would like to express the City of Bellevue's appreciation for Sound Transit's continuing efforts to work collaboratively with Bellevue in making these vital decisions, and look forward to our sustained discussions in March and April as the Board considers a preferred alignment in the C segment. We recognize that new information will arise from our discussions

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and from Sound Transit's continued work on the project, and remain open to considering all new information related to the East Link project.

Sincerely,

Don Davidson, DDS
Mayor

cc: Sound Transit Board
Bellevue City Council
Steve Sarkozy, City Manager
Goran Sparrman, Transportation Director
Matt Terry, Planning and Community Development Director

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