



SHORELINE  
CITY COUNCIL

Shari Winstead  
Mayor

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Deputy Mayor

Will Hall

Doris McConnell

Keith A. McGlashan

Chris Roberts

Jesse Salomon

May 4, 2015

Daniel Drais  
Office of Planning and Program Development  
US DOT, Federal Transit Administration  
915 Second Avenue, Suite 3142  
Seattle, WA 98114

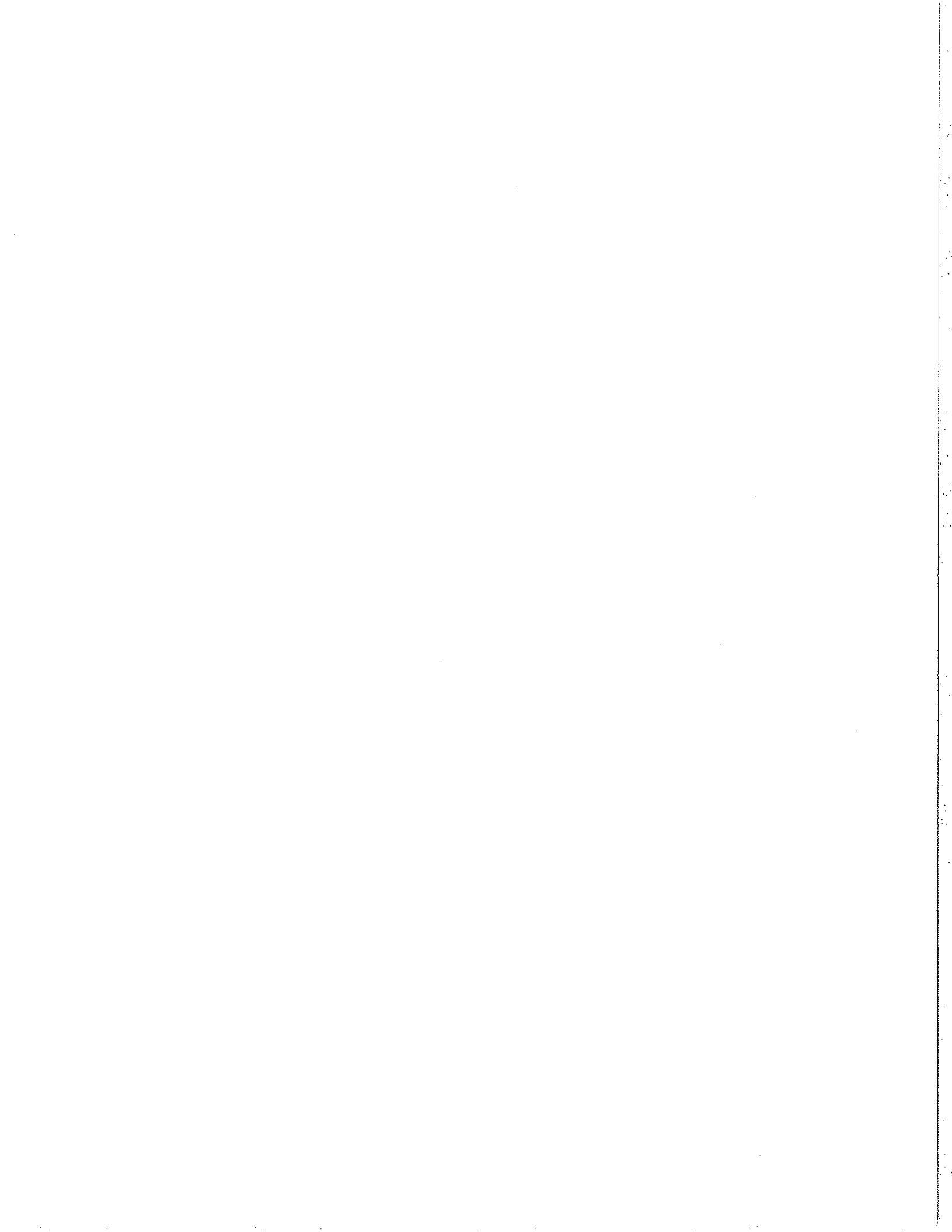
RE: The Lynnwood Link Extension light rail transit project FEIS Record of Decision

Dear Mr. Drais:

The City of Shoreline greatly anticipates light rail coming to our community. As you know, the Sound Transit Board recently adopted the resolution selecting the final alignment for Lynnwood Link Extension light rail transit project (LLE Project). The City requested, and the Sound Transit Board (Board) agreed, to add language to the resolution recognizing the importance of safe and effective pedestrian and bicycle access to the stations. The City would like to request that same language be included in the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) Record of Decision for the project.

This project is vitally important to the City, our neighboring jurisdictions to the north and east, and the region. The City is actively involved in planning for light rail, including recently adopting a comprehensive rezone of the area around the 185<sup>th</sup> Street station, and we are halfway through the process for the 145<sup>th</sup> Street Station. One of the main purposes of rezoning is to ensure the success of the LINK system and to create future land uses that are consistent with the regional transportation vision. The City is also in the planning stage to address the 145<sup>th</sup> Street/SR 523 corridor, and has initiated a multimodal corridor study which is scheduled for completion this December. To date, the City has secured a \$4.5 million dollar grant to fund that study, and the City is actively seeking both state and federal funding.

The City is also actively involved in project planning and review, and has taken actions in support of the project alignment and station location. As the planning for Lynnwood Link proceeded and as the DEIS was issued, the City had several concerns. The City worked very closely with Sound Transit staff to address these concerns, which is reflected in specific language in the recent Board action. In particular, the Board action on April 23, 2015, unanimously adopted Resolution R2015-05, selecting the route alignment, station locations and other elements of the LLE Project. This resolution contains specific language (added



through Amendment no. 4, also unanimously approved) to explicitly recognize the importance of providing safe and effective multimodal access to each light rail station:

*Sound Transit recognizes the importance of safe and effective pedestrian, bicycle and vehicular access to its facilities. Consistent with Sound Transit's system access policy, Sound Transit will partner with the cities of Seattle, Shoreline, Mountlake Terrace and Lynnwood during project final design to identify and implement appropriate pedestrian, bicycle and vehicular access enhancements to stations focused generally within ¼ mile of the stations.*

The City appreciates this specific language and is fully committed to continue working collaboratively with Sound Transit during project final design to address these concerns. The Board, in discussing the resolution and the amendment above, heard from a number of cities with similar concerns. The FTA Administrator, Rick Krochalis, was in the audience and heard the testimony, as well as the support for the above language from several ST Board members. While testifying on behalf of the City of Shoreline, I was heartened to hear so much support from the Board.

As the City has consistently noted during the planning process with ST staff, the selected station locations do not have optimal access, primarily due to historical development patterns. More specifically, Shoreline neighborhoods in the vicinity of the planned 145<sup>th</sup> and 185<sup>th</sup> light rail stations have severely inadequate pedestrian facilities, and as such, less than a handful of streets within a quarter mile of 145<sup>th</sup> and 185<sup>th</sup> stations have sidewalks. Existing streets with sidewalks, including the crossing over Interstate 5, are all substandard with limited to no bicycle facilities. According to the LLE Project Final Environmental Impact Statement, there will be approximately 4,800 pedestrians in total walking to and from the 145<sup>th</sup> and 185<sup>th</sup> stations each day, *before* any additional planned density is realized. Enhancing the pedestrian and bicycle access to these stations, especially the I-5 crossings, is therefore critical to getting these riders safely and reliably to these stations.

The City of Shoreline looks forward to partnering with Sound Transit to build the LLE Project and its greatly needed pedestrian, bike and vehicular station area access enhancements. This is a great milestone for the City, region, and FTA.

Sincerely,

Shari Winstead  
Mayor

cc: Shoreline City Councilmembers

