

November 20, 2020

Sound Transit Board emailtheboard@soundtransit.org

RE: 522 Bus Rapid Transit (BRT)

Dear Board Members:

We are writing to thank Sound Transit for the diligent efforts of your team in working with our staff and community members in planning for the Bus Rapid Transit service on State Routes 522 and NE 145th Street, which will connect our cities near the north end of Lake Washington with Link Light Rail service at NE 145th Street in Shoreline, as well as the I-405 BRT to the east. These east-west service connections are exceptional. As the Board considers prudent next steps for the system development, we urge you to maintain the 522 BRT project on its current schedule. As you know, this route has had very strong community support for years, which helped to get the route added to the 2016 Sound Transit ballot measure and that grassroots support has only gotten stronger as the planning has proceeded.

The 522 BRT will allow for efficient and reliable travel for people of all ages and walks of life, who may use multiple travel modes (bike, car, walking) on their journeys. It will also contribute to our regional effort on climate change. Downtown and corridor development in our cities will be strengthened by having enhanced transit nearby, and will also provide riders eager for frequent and reliable transit service in the region.

This route is doable, relatively inexpensive and will be an effective early deliverable for the Sound Transit system.

We want to continue and build on our collaboration with Sound Transit to see this project completed as a model for other components of the ST 3 regional investments. This community-led effort deserves to move forward. Let us know how we can help keep the 522 Corridor project on track. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Giam Olsen

Mayor Liam Olsen City of Bothell

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Mayor Will Hall City of Shoreline

Mayor David Baker City of Kenmore

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Mayor Elaine Cook City of Woodinville

11

Mayor Jeff Johnson City of Lake Forest Park