

JOHNSTON | GROUP

To: Scott MacColl, City of Shoreline
From: Jake Johnston
Date: February 13, 2015
RE: Recap of DC meetings

This memo summarizes the meetings the City held in Washington, D.C. on February 4th, 2015. In each meeting, the City was represented by Mayor Shari Winstead, City Manager Debbie Tarry, Intergovernmental Relations Manager Scott MacColl and the City's federal lobbyist, Jake Johnston.

Purpose of Meetings

The purpose of the City's meetings with its federal delegation was to continue its efforts to cultivate the federal government as a funding partner for the City's infrastructure, policy and budget initiatives. The City's primary objective was to discuss the planned improvements for North 145th Street and to solicit input and guidance from the congressional delegation to obtain the necessary federal, regional and state funding partners to bring the project to completion.

The City also made a strong ask for federal transportation policy and funding that accentuates opportunities for transit and transit-oriented development and provides new funding streams and opportunities for smaller cities with large infrastructure needs.

The City also requested support for the Municipal Tax Fairness Act that would allow the City to collect sales tax on purchases made online and not currently collected. Passage of this bill would provide an estimated \$183,431 per biennium to the City of Shoreline.

Additionally, the City thanked the delegation for its work in support of the Community Development Block Grant Program (CDBG) and urged passage of a five-year federal transportation bill with funding for roads and transit.

Finally, the City communicated that the SR-99 project would be finally completed later this year and invited the delegation to attend a ribbon-cutting event that demonstrates the City's apt stewardship of a highly complex project (SR-99) consisting of more than 20 different funding partners over a decade and resulting in more than half a billion dollars of private investment in addition to the transit, housing, environmental and public safety benefits.

Executive Summary

Overall, the City accomplished its objectives listed above. The City found its delegation to be a strong partner for its future efforts. Every member of the City's delegation reiterated their desire to be a partner to the City and applauded the City's leadership to secure all the required funding to complete the SR-99 project. The City successfully communicated its messages and found the completion of SR-99 to have strong resonance with the delegation as a proof point that the City can be a trusted steward of complex projects consisting of multiple funding partners.

Further, the delegation generally understands the City needs partners – including the federal government - to achieve its development goals and shares the City’s recognition of the opportunities presented by light rail coming to the City.

More, the work the City has done over the past year in terms of pointing out the limitations of local governments to fund infrastructure has paid off in terms of the knowledge basis and engagement of the delegation offices. Each office – including Governor Inslee’s DC office – recognized the challenges that exist and pledged to work creatively and collaboratively to fund needed infrastructure.

The City’s message about using all of the tools currently within its legal authority (e.g. vehicle license fee, property tax increases, etc.) but still needing assistance from regional, state and federal funding partners to meet the needs of light rail coming to Shoreline resonated very well.

Moving forward, the City secured commitments to convene regional meetings to focus on North 145th Street and how to elevate the project in regional, state and federal financing packages.

Meeting Recaps

Congressman Jim McDermott

Attending Meeting: Congressman McDermott
Jacqueline Gosnell, Legislative Assistant

- Rep. McDermott complimented the City for its work to complete the SR-99 project – especially during such an economic downturn.
- Rep. McDermott bemoaned the lack of earmarking authority available to congress and restated his belief that Republican leadership would reinstate earmarks as a way to help control its caucus.
- Rep. McDermott communicated his longstanding support for transit and his ongoing work to ensure that transit is a key part of funding transportation.
- Very supportive of the City’s position with regard to the need for increased infrastructure spending. Will support the need for additional infrastructure spending but doesn’t think the House will end up reporting out a bill that he can support.
- Rep. McDermott had a number of questions about how light rail would come to Shoreline in terms of community impacts and route development. He also was not entirely clear on what the exact needed improvements to North 145th Street would entail. The City may elect to invite him to tour the route station areas later in the year.

Senator Maria Cantwell

Attending Meeting: Senator Cantwell
Pete Modaff, Legislative Director

- Senator Cantwell complimented the City for its work to complete the SR-99 project – especially during such an economic downturn.
- Very supportive of the City’s position with regard to the need for increased infrastructure spending.
- The Senator is a champion for the City and thinks that the City’s future is strong given the strength of the local leadership and the transit investments that are

underway. She further expressed her opinion that Shoreline was exceptionally positioned for growth and development given its community assets and connections to future light rail.

- Senator Cantwell engaged the City in a deep discussion of tools and ideas for the 145th project given its early stage. She specifically suggested that the City:
 - Focus on the right-of-way needs for the project as a key differentiation factor for the project.
 - Suggested that the Transit-oriented development aspects of the project were a key priority for federal funding per the Obama Administration.
 - Strongly urged the City get freight mobility data and build a relationship with the Seattle-Area Freight Mobility Board as this agency is expected to see increased funding as both parties in Congress agree that freight mobility is underfunded and needs major investments.
 - Informed us that she was working on a transportation initiative focused on freight mobility and wants data from the City on this point.
- Senator Cantwell strongly supports federal transportation spending that funds TOD, enhances economic development connected to new rail transit systems and prioritizes creating new links between transit systems.
- The Senator is highly supportive of developing new tools and funding streams for the City to help meet its development and infrastructure objectives and further agrees that the current federal tools are woefully insufficient.
- Senator Cantwell appreciated the City's focus on 145th and its willingness to take on big projects – a rare quality among state partners.
- Senator Cantwell cautioned the City about asking for funding too quickly. She strongly suggested that the station alignment and the design work on the corridor must be done first to have a better number for funding and that if the City had to revise the number later it would significantly complicate the project.
- That said, she committed to hosting a meeting in Shoreline with regional, state and federal funding agencies and potential partners to strategize about how to fund the project once the preliminary design was complete. She pledged to help with the project however we needed her to do so.
- With regard to the TIGER-CUBS legislation, she indicated her support for the basic goals and asked to stay involved with the future discussions between the offices of Rep. Larsen and Senator Murray.
- With regard to the Municipal Tax Fairness Act, Senator Cantwell supports the City's position and voted for it last year in the Senate. She will continue to push for its inclusion and recognizes the value the bill would provide to cities across the country.

Senator Patty Murray

Attending Meeting: Senator Murray
Shawn Bills, Legislative Director

- Senator Murray was effusive in her support for Shoreline and called the City “my hometown” on several occasions during the meeting.
- Senator Murray further complimented the City about the completion of the SR-99 project and spoke about how she has personally seen the transformation of the project.
- When reminded that she delivered the first federal money for SR-99 via an earmark, she spoke about the need for earmarks and how projects like SR-99 wouldn't be

- possible without the tool. She hopes that congress will restore the tool in a new Administration and believes there is bipartisan and bicameral support to do so.
- Regarding transportation policy, the Senator suggested the City take a good look at the TIGER program for 145th and said that transit and transit-oriented development was a key criteria for the program.
 - Other key criteria for TIGER includes any data regarding ladders of opportunity – areas of the city with lower income populations or economically depressed portions of the City compared to the mean.
 - Ethnic diversity also applies to TIGER as a key scoring criteria.
 - Senator Murray offered to connect the City with the regional office of the US Department of Transportation for a scoping meeting to outline the 145th project and talk strategically about what tools (e.g. new start programs, TIGER, etc.) might be appropriate for the City to pursue.
 - Like Senator Cantwell, Senator Murray urged caution about timing – meaning the City should have solid numbers, project goals and designs in place before engaging funding partners.
 - Mr. Bills is covering transportation policy for the Senator while they look to hire a new full time Legislative Assistant focused on the topic. He will introduce us to the new person once they are on board.
 - Mr. Bills also communicated that the Senator has a new King County director, Richard Lazier and he will introduce us so that Richard can meet with the City and take point on local issues connected to municipal business.
 - With regard to the Municipal Tax Fairness Act, Senator Murray supports the City's position and voted for it last year in the Senate. She will continue to push for its inclusion and recognizes the value the bill would provide to cities across the country.

Governor Jay Inslee

Attending Meeting: Sam Ricketts, Director, Washington D.C. Office of Governor Jay Inslee

- Briefed Mr. Ricketts about SR-99 and the role that then-Congressman Inslee played in its development and the earmark to support the Interurban Trail. Mr. Ricketts pledged to communicate the project's completion to the Governor's team in the hopes that he will attend the final ceremony.
- The City had a lengthy and collaborative discussion with Mr. Ricketts. In general, Mr. Ricketts communicated that the City was doing everything right in terms of working with its delegation and the state in support of its infrastructure goals and fully understands the limitations the City has to complete the project on its own.
- Governor Inslee is a strong support of the City's effort and will push for a state transportation package that would provide funding for local priorities. Mr. Ricketts said that the City's efforts in Olympia (e.g. testifying, relationship building, etc.) were critical strategies to have the City's projects included in state funding bills.
- Said again and again that inclusion in a state transportation package was the way to fund the project. Also said that actively engaging regional partners was key to inclusion.
- Further said that the project could not be included in a state package without additional details being done through the design phase – having a project defined is key to building a funding package to support it.

- Said that Governor Inslee is actively lobbying for transit funding in federal transportation bills.
- Further said that he would think about what options might be available in Olympia to create a higher priority for projects that link transit to transit (e.g. buses to light rail) and discuss it with the Governor's key advisors.
- Mr. Ricketts shared information about the Washington State infrastructure exchange designed to fund smaller public projects. Mr. Ricketts agreed to get the City additional information about this group and broker an introduction for the City.
- Mr. Ricketts said that the State of Washington and Governor Inslee were strong supporters of the Municipal Tax Fairness Act and would be pushing the delegation to support it. He asked for additional information about the impact of the bill on cities in the state.

Congressman Dave Reichert

Attending Meeting: Lindsay Manson, Legislative Director

- The City met with Rep. Reichert's office because he serves on the House Ways and Means Committee with jurisdiction over tax policy. We discussed the Municipal Tax Fairness Act in detail given the committee assignment of Rep. Reichert.
- Ms. Manson communicated that the House will start consideration of several tax starting this month but was not sure where the Municipal Tax Fairness Act fit into the House Republican agenda. For now, the Municipal Tax bill is not included in Chairman Goodlatte's bill.
- Ms. Manson did not say if Rep. Reichert supported the bill but did communicate that he was familiar with the challenges of local cities and counties to fund services and programs, including public safety and law enforcement. She requested additional information about the impact of the bill on cities in Rep. Reichert's district.

Congressman Rick Larsen

Attending Meeting: Matt Bormet, Senior Legislative Assistant

- Briefed Mr. Bormet on the North 145th Street project given Rep. Larsen's position on the House Transportation Committee.
- Mr. Bormet provided significant counsel to the City for 145th including the following highlights:
 - The City should explore a Federal Transit Agency (FTA) New Starts Program as the FTA prioritizes Transit Oriented Development projects and has funding authorized by Congress
 - Strongly endorsed the idea of a regional meeting with FTA and USDOT to discuss project and solicit feedback and support.
 - Strongly endorsed meeting now (and early) with FTA and FHWA (Federal Highway Administration) to explore programs.
 - Suggested that the TIGER program might be worth trying again.
 - The TIGER program is prioritizing TOD, smart growth plans and economic development goals.
 - Said that for federal dollars, being highly ranked on the Puget Sound Regional Council list was the key criteria for 145th.
 - Further suggested that King County ought to be a lead agency for this project or at a minimum, a partner lead agency.

- Suggested that the House would pass a federal transportation bill early this year and that he believed that the TIGER-CUBS bill would be a portion of the House-passed bill. He clearly said that he had a path for its inclusion and believed it would be a part of the bill.
- Not inclined to make any changes to the population size of the TIGER-CUBS bill as it fits all but the two largest cities in Rep. Larsen's district.