



OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

June 30, 2015

The Honorable Dow Constantine
Chair, Board of Directors
Sound Transit
401 South Jackson Street
Seattle, Washington 98104-2826

Dear Chair Constantine:

Shoreline Community College has been proud to serve our local communities of Shoreline and Lake Forest Park for the past 50 years. Our partnerships with the City of Shoreline, the Shoreline School District, and numerous businesses and nonprofit organizations throughout the Puget Sound region, the State of Washington, and the United States point to the vital importance of community colleges in the educational fabric of our region. Emerging partnerships with the University of Washington, both at its Seattle and Bothell campuses, also enhance the College's contribution to our local higher education environment.

I write at this time, on behalf of the College and its Board of Trustees, regarding the Sound Transit 3 (ST3) ballot measure planned for November 2016. Specifically, the College supports adding to the plan high-capacity transit service that will connect the SR-523 (North and Northeast 145th Street) corridor with high-capacity transit service on the SR-522 (Bothell Way Northeast) corridor.

The opening of the Lynnwood Link Extension (LLE) in 2023 will greatly benefit businesses and residents in the cities of Shoreline and Lake Forest Park, which represent the College's legal boundaries. However, riders in our area still need to be able to access the LLE stations. With planned ridership of over 6,000 boardings per day at the NE 145th station, and only a 500-stall parking garage, a robust, high-capacity transit solution that connects to the station is critical.

The NE 145th light rail station will serve riders from Shoreline, Lake Forest Park, Seattle, Kenmore, Bothell, and Woodinville. Without a transit link to this station, transit customers, including students at Shoreline Community College and the University of Washington Bothell, will experience serious difficulty in getting to their ultimate destination. We therefore request that frequent, all-day service along the SR-523 and SR-522 corridors connecting Shoreline, Lake Forest Park, Kenmore, and Bothell to the NE 145th station be included in the ST3 plan. Specifically, we request service that provides at least 10-minute headways during peak hours and 15-minute headways during the remainder of the day.

Shoreline Community College serves nearly 5,000 full-time equivalent students and a headcount approaching 18,000 annually, including our extensive work in corporate training and

The Honorable Dow Constantine

June 30, 2015

Page 2

community education. It is critical for students of the College to have access to transit, particularly given the rising cost of housing in the north King County area. The College is also committed to the diversity of our student population, which is fostered by providing access to affordable transportation. Finally, the College and particularly its student body are responding to the global environmental challenges that face us by encouraging sustainable commuter options for students, faculty, and staff alike.

In summary, including this high-capacity transit connection in the ST3 plan will provide a vital link to regional education and job centers, Shoreline Community College to the University of Washington Bothell, and students at both institutions to the University of Washington Seattle campus.

We urge you and the entire Sound Transit Board to add high-capacity transit on the SR-523 and SR-522 corridors to the ST3 plan to ensure that our significant transit investment truly allows communities to connect to the light rail route.

Respectfully,



Cheryl Roberts, Ed.D.
President

cc: Mayor Shari Winstead, City of Shoreline
Mayor Mary Jane Goss, City of Lake Forest Park
Debbie Tarry, City Manager, City of Shoreline
Pete Rose, City Administrator, City of Lake Forest Park