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June 30, 2015

The Honorable Dow Constantine  
Chair, Sound Transit Board  
401 S Jackson St.  
Seattle, WA 98104

Dear Chair Constantine,

On behalf of the SeaShore Transportation Forum, we request that high-capacity transit (HCT) service on SR 523/NE 145th Street and SR 522 corridor be added to the Priority Project List for the Sound Transit 3 (ST3) plan.

The SeaShore Transportation Forum (SeaShore) is a body of elected officials and agency staff representing jurisdictions in north King and south Snohomish Counties that meets monthly to advise the Puget Sound Regional Council (PSRC) on awards of transportation-related grants, to advocate for transportation needs in our region, and to provide a forum for sharing information and coordinating transportation projects. Members include the cities of Seattle, Shoreline, Lake Forest Park, Edmonds, Mountlake Terrace, Kenmore, Bothell, and Woodinville; King County; Snohomish County; Community Transit; Sound Transit; Washington State DOT; and the PSRC.

SeaShore is excited about the Lynnwood Link Extension (LLE) opening in 2023; however, there is still work to do to ensure that riders in North King County can access the proposed LLE stations. With planned ridership of over 6,000 boardings per day at the proposed 145th Street Station, there must be robust, high-capacity transit connecting to the station as the proposed 500-stall parking garage alone cannot handle the expected demand.

As you know, SR 523 between I-5 and SR 522 is considered an HCT corridor in the Sound Transit Long Range Plan, because the NE 145th Street light rail station will serve riders from Seattle, Shoreline, Lake Forest Park, Kenmore, Bothell, and Woodinville. With light rail service in Shoreline scheduled to begin in 2023, connecting the SR 523/SR 522 HCT with the light rail system will provide a transit link for many north Lake Washington residents that are expecting to access light rail at NE 145th Street.

Therefore, we request that HCT service and associated infrastructure along SR 522 and SR 523 be added to the Priority Project List for the ST3 plan. Specifically, we request HCT service that provides at most a 10 minute headway during peak hours and a 15 minute headway at other times, complemented by parking structures and business access transit lanes in Lake Forest Park, Kenmore, and Bothell.

The SeaShore member cities have identified the following as key issues for the Board to consider:

- SeaShore has long identified these corridors as regionally significant requiring investment and improvement to ensure that riders can access the light rail system.
- SeaShore member cities have helped to fund two rounds of Sound Transit development and have made substantial investments on the SR 522 corridor. Now that Lynnwood Link is moving forward, it is an appropriate time to link SeaShore communities to the light rail spine.
- SR 522 is severely congested at peak hours, but is the only direct access point to the light rail system for cities north of Lake Washington.
- SeaShore has advocated for the 145th Light Rail Station as a regional connector, including accessing the station from SR 522 using SR 523/NE 145th Street.
- SR 522 is a vital link to regional education centers, connecting the University of Washington-Bothell/Cascadia Community College and Shoreline Community College with the main University of Washington campus.
- SR 522 also links commuters to major employment centers: downtown Seattle and Boeing on the west, and Bellevue and Microsoft on the east.
- The ST Board recognized the importance of the SR 523/NE 145th Street corridor by adding it as an HCT corridor in the long-range plan in December, 2014.
- HCT connecting Shoreline, Lake Forest Park, Kenmore, Bothell, and Woodinville to the 145th Light Rail Station will help ease congestion in the SR 522 corridor, taking advantage of investments already made to prioritize transit service.
- The cities of Shoreline, Lake Forest Park, and Kenmore are working in partnership with Sound Transit, Seattle, King County Metro Transit, WSDOT and PSRC to identify changes along the SR 523 corridor that will improve transit speed and reliability, and are developing a plan with these partners to implement the improvements.
- SR 522 is a designated emergency evacuation route for the Puget Sound region. HCT service on SR 522 and SR 523/NE 145th Street is likely to save lives.

The SeaShore Transportation Forum urges you and the Sound Transit Board to add HCT on SR 523 and SR 522, and parking structures at town centers in Bothell, Kenmore, and Lake Forest Park to the Priority Project List for the ST3 plan to ensure the transportation system truly allows communities to connect to the light rail spine.

Sincerely,



Councilmember Doris McConnell  
City of Shoreline  
Co-Chair, SeaShore Transportation Forum



Councilmember Jeff Johnson  
City of Lake Forest Park  
Co-Chair, SeaShore Transportation Forum