



City of Seattle

Seattle Department of Transportation

Vickson

Peter Hahn, Director

June 19, 2012

Kevin Desmond
General Manager
King County Department of Transportation
King Street Center
201 South Jackson Street Room 415
Seattle, WA 98104-3856

SUBJECT: Support for Metro's RapidRide E Line

Dear Mr. Desmond:

The purpose of this letter is to express City of Seattle support for King County Metro's RapidRide E Line, which will connect Shoreline and Seattle via Aurora Avenue North with more reliable, premium service, starting in fall of 2013. The RapidRide E Line will keep people moving throughout the day in a heavily used transit corridor, with buses coming every 10 minutes or better during the busiest morning and evening travel hours, and every 15 minutes at most other times.

In general, the RapidRide E Line is consistent with the Seattle Transit Master Plan, and the City of Seattle is in agreement with Metro that the currently planned alignment is preferred. RapidRide will replace Route 358 and provide service between the Aurora Village Transit Center and downtown Seattle. The preferred alignment primarily follows the current Route 358 path with the exception of southbound between Winona Avenue North and North 63rd Street, where the E line will stay on Aurora Avenue North rather than operating via Winona Avenue North, Linden Avenue North and N. 63rd, as Route 358 currently does. This routing revision appears to strike a reasonable balance between coverage and speed.

The Seattle Department of Transportation is currently working with Metro to convert the far right of three southbound Aurora Avenue North lanes into a transit lane to accommodate a RapidRide stop on Aurora Avenue in the vicinity of North 66th Street. This new bus stop is needed to allow southbound RapidRide to remain on Aurora as described above. Combined with transit signal priority, added bus lanes, improved passenger facilities, and a reduced number of stops south of the Ship Canal bridge, this package of improvements will noticeably reduce travel times and provide a better rider experience. It is worth pointing out that SDOT is investing directly in some of these improvements, including RapidRide "tech pylons" at a number of locations.



Seattle Municipal Tower, 700 5th Avenue, Suite 3800, PO Box 34996, Seattle, WA 98124-4996

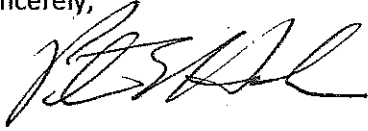
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Web: www.seattle.gov/transportation

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SDOT commends Metro for conducting a thorough outreach process for the Aurora RapidRide E Line and appreciates the opportunity to actively participate in outreach events. We look forward to continuing our partnership in developing RapidRide. If you have further questions, or need assistance from SDOT on this project please don't hesitate to contact Jonathan Dong at (206) 233-8564 or email: jonathan.dong@seattle.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'P. Hahn', written in a cursive style.

Peter Hahn, Director
Seattle Department of Transportation

cc: Bill Bryant, Seattle Department Transportation
