



March 9, 2021

Terry White
General Manager
King County Metro
201 S Jackson St
Seattle, WA 98104

Subject: Sound Transit Support for North Link Connections Mobility Project

Dear Mr. White:

This letter is intended to express Sound Transit's support for King County Metro's North Link Connections Mobility Project. Sound Transit was an active contributor to this effort, particularly in support of engagement and outreach for changes related to ST Express route 522. We also supported King County Metro engagement with your Mobility Board, participated as a member of your Partner Review Board, and contributed to your service planning and engagement efforts.

As we prepare to open the Northgate Link Extension in September, we appreciate that this new high capacity transit investment brings significant changes to regional mobility, and which will require our passengers to potentially adapt how they move around the region. Specifically, our local and regional bus service networks must change to ensure that the overall network supports the expansion of the light rail system.

As King County Metro was a core contributor to our own service changes for ST Express regional bus service, we are proud to have been a part of the North Link Connections Mobility Project. I would like to specifically acknowledge the following areas of coordination and collaboration between our agencies in support of your North Link Connections Mobility Project:

- **A new service network.** While we are distinct agencies, I know an important consideration in both of our service planning efforts was in support of an integrated regional transit network that acknowledges the increasing need for passengers to use both King County Metro and Sound Transit services. As our light rail system continues to expand, an integrated network will be essential to our collective success.

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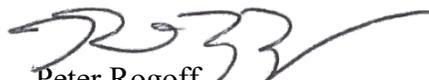
Peter M. Rogoff

- **Equitable engagement.** We were excited to participate in your outreach and engagement effort, particularly as it supported our interest in hearing from community on the service changes the Sound Transit Board of Directors considered and ultimately adopted for ST Express service. It must also be acknowledged that King County Metro staff – like our own engagement staff – were forced to dramatically pivot as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic in the area of outreach and engagement, and did so in creative ways. We also look forward to continuing to collaborate on engagement efforts in future corridors and service areas where light rail expansion will occur in the years to come.
- **Supportive capital improvements.** These efforts inevitably result in the identification of new and supportive capital improvements to facilitate safe and convenient connections for passengers who will transfer between light rail and bus service. The North Link Connections Mobility Project was no exception and we are grateful for our ability to work closely with King County Metro – and the Seattle Department of Transportation – to ensure that these types of improvements can be implemented in support of a high quality transfer experience for our shared passengers and also for efficient transit operations through the provision of layover for buses and paving of key transit pathways.

The proposed network at the heart of the North Link Connections Mobility Project will ensure better connections to our three new light rail stations in the University District, Roosevelt, and Northgate neighborhoods. It will also ensure continued, high quality service to other significant employment centers in the City of Seattle, most notably South Lake Union and First Hill, and other key destinations throughout the project area.

Our continued partnership with King County Metro is integral to the success of the regional high capacity transit investments Sound Transit is making throughout King County and our district. I encourage the King County Council to adopt the changes proposed through the North Link Connections Mobility Project. I look forward to celebrating when we open the Northgate Link Extension in September 2021 and to continuing to work with King County Metro to ensure that our regional transit system works for all our passengers.

Sincerely,



Peter Rogoff
Chief Executive Officer

cc: Carrie Avila-Mooney, Director – Regional Government & Community Relations
Don Billen, Executive Director – Planning, Environment, and Project Development
Alex Krieg, Deputy Director – Access & Integration