

September 26, 2018

Elected Leadership Group
Cathal Ridge, Central Corridor Director
Sound Transit
401 S. Jackson St.
Seattle, WA 98104

Dear Elected Leadership Group and Mr. Ridge,

We write to you today as businesses, residents, families and individuals who live and work in Ballard and Interbay. We are transit supporters, urbanists, freight-mobility advocates, long-time industrial businesses, small businesses and property owners.

Seattle has been, and will always be, a city of strong neighborhoods – each with individual character and history. The Sound Transit 3 (ST3) alignment through Interbay and Ballard is a 100-year decision that has the power to dramatically transform our neighborhoods.

As such, we take great pride, as stewards of our communities, to ensure ST3 is a positive force for social and economic good, that enhances the urban form and character of our neighborhoods. As Sound Transit staff, the broader Stakeholder Advisory Group, Elected Leadership Group and Sound Transit Board prepare to winnow the alternatives that will eventually become part of the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS), below are our strong priorities and principles.

Our Priorities:

- Ensure taxpayer investments support high quality, reliable and efficient transit connections across the Ship Canal.
- Protect maritime and industrial businesses along the Ship Canal and throughout East Ballard.
- Recognize that the ST3 alignment is much-needed transit connection and a 100-year commitment for Ballard and Interbay.
- Ensure the alignment and station locations enhance Ballard's unique and historic neighborhood character.
- Protect historic Ballard Avenue and the integrity of structures.
- Ensure continued freight mobility along the 15th Ave NW / 15th Ave W / Elliott Ave W corridor during construction and operation.
- Recognize Interbay is uniquely situated to be a high-capacity transit-oriented development (TOD) corridor for affordable and market-rate housing.
- Ensure new light rail alignment is as close to the center of the Ballard Urban Village as possible and maximizes Interbay's Seattle Mixed-Dravus (SMD) zoning.
- Maximize opportunities for future light rail transit connectivity to the east (University Washington Station) and to the north.
- Support alignments that minimize eminent domain for existing built properties.

Weighing our priorities against the existing Level 2 alignment options, we support the following tunnel options:

- Central Interbay / Tunnel / 15th (brown alignment) provided that Fishing Vessel Operators (FVO) can be accommodated.
- Armory Way / Tunnel / 14th (pink) - only if the north terminus is located West of 15th Avenue NW and as close to the Urban Village center at 22nd and Market as possible.

Through several conversation with ST staff, we understand that there have been internal discussions about adjusting the Ballard terminus of the “Armory Way / Tunnel / 14th” alignment. We formally request that this amended alternative be studied and thoroughly vetted through the Level 3 screening process.

We understand there are cost efficiencies for crossing the Ship Canal at the narrowest points and we are less concerned about the actual crossing points. Rather, our focus is on a Thorndyke station in Interbay, a tunnel, and a terminus close to the center of the Ballard Urban Village, west of 15th Ave NW and Market St.).

We appreciate the work Sound Transit staff has done thus far to help lead us through this thoughtful discussion and we look forward working together to protect the existing business and residents of Ballard while ensuring it remains a vibrant and dynamic neighborhood for the next 100 years.

Sincerely,

Mike Stewart

Stakeholder Advisory Group Member
Ballard Alliance

Warren Aakervik

Stakeholder Advisory Group Member
Ballard Oil

Ginny Gilder

Stakeholder Advisory Group Member
Gilder Office for Growth
Force 10 Enterprises

Peter Schrappen

Stakeholder Advisory Group Member
Northwest Marine Trade Association

Andres Arjona

Stakeholder Advisory Group Member
Ballard Resident

Eugene Wasserman

North Seattle Industrial Association

Lincoln Ferris

Seattle Colleges

Sarah Scherer

Seattle Maritime Academy, Seattle Central College

Charles P. Costanzo

The American Waterways Operators

Mike Kahrs

Central Ballard Residents Association

Jeff Thompson
Freehold Group

Kent Angier
Kauri Investments

Tejal Pastakia
Pastakia & Associates

Jim Riggle
Olympic Athletic Club/Hotel Ballard/Ballard Inn

Eric Nelson
Nordic Museum

Don Root
GM Nameplate

Legh Burns
re-souL

Haley Keller
Peddler Brewing Company

Thomas Malone
Malone Law Group PS/CKM Associates LP

Emily Mabus
Other Coast Cafe

Michelle Rosenthal
Veris Law Group

cc: Sound Transit Board
Deputy Mayor Shefali Ranganathan
Chris Arkills, Transportation Policy Advisor - King County Executive's Office