



CITY OF KIRKLAND
Department of Public Works
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MEMORANDUM

To: David Ramsay, City Manager

From: Daryl Grigsby, Public Works Director
David Godfrey, P.E., Transportation Engineering Manager

Date: June 5, 2008

Subject: Sound Transit 2 Planning – Four City letter

RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that the Council authorize the Mayor to sign the attached letter to the Sound Transit Board. The letter will also be signed by the cities of Issaquah, Bellevue and Redmond.

BACKGROUND:

The Sound Transit Board is considering plans for the next phase of Sound Transit. Staff from the cities of Kirkland, Redmond, Issaquah and Bellevue have been working on a letter to the Sound Transit Board. It is felt that a joint letter from all four cities will be more persuasive with the board than would separate letters.

Sound Transit Express Service is oriented to freeway operation that connects Urban Centers. Since phase II of Sound Transit's proposal does not contemplate light rail to Kirkland, our interests are in promoting better bus-based transit service through Bus Rapid Transit in major freeway corridors and through redeployment of hours freed up in the corridors where light rail will run. In particular, we are interested in increasing service in the Totem Lake Urban Center.

Since elected officials in the other cities are in the process of approving the letter we expect that there may be some slight changes but that those changes will not affect the substance of the letter's message.

Sound Transit Board -- Greg Nickels Chair

June __, 2008

Eastside cities contain two of the region's four largest employment centers, driving a significant portion of the economy of the State of Washington. Providing transportation mobility now is critical to the economic prosperity of the region and state. Our growing Eastside communities need mobility and transit capacity to not only support the population and job growth our communities will sustain, particularly growth in our urban centers such as Downtown Bellevue, Redmond-Overlake and Totem Lake, but to ensure the economic prosperity of the region and state.

On behalf of the Cities of Bellevue, Issaquah, Kirkland and Redmond, we are writing to convey our strong support for a ST2 package that would allow the Board to consider a transit ballot to fund these improvements:

Extension of Light Rail Service to the Growing Eastside.

Strongly support extension of light rail service connecting Seattle to downtown Bellevue and Redmond-Overlake (Overlake Transit Center, NE 40th St. & SR 520).

Evaluate Commuter Rail Transit Service in the Burlington Northern Santa Fe Corridor.

Consider the results of the Commuter Rail Feasibility study which is currently being developed before deciding how to pursue potential partnerships for rail service in this corridor.

Additional Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) service on SR 520, I-405 and I-90.

Build on the success of the Regional Express Bus network and improve service frequency and coverage to our Eastside communities within the first five years of any voter approved plan.

Redeployment of Regional Express Bus Service Hours.

Once light rail service begins on the Eastside, Regional Express Bus service hours used in this corridor will be redeployed to serve Eastside regional transit needs, connecting strong Eastside transit markets such as downtown Issaquah, the Sammamish Plateau, downtown Redmond and downtown Kirkland.

We appreciate that opportunity to comment on the ST2 package and look forward to increased transit service in our region and on the Eastside.

Sincerely,

<Signatures of Mayors – Kirkland, Redmond, Issaquah, Bellevue>