



January 19, 2016

Don Anderson
Mayor

Marilyn Strickland, Mayor, City of Tacoma
Dave Enslow, Mayor, City of Sumner
Pat McCarthy, County Executive, Pierce County
Mary Moss, Councilmember, City of Lakewood

Jason Whalen
Deputy Mayor

Dear Sound Transit Board Members of Pierce County:

Mary Moss
Councilmember

The following letter outlines the City of Lakewood's Sound Transit 3 (ST3) requests and offers our recommendations on the future of regional and local transportation in the South Sound. The selection of projects will significantly affect Lakewood's future and we appreciate this opportunity to provide input for this critical decision.

Michael D. Brandstetter
Councilmember

Lakewood Projects

The Lakewood City Council asks for your support that the following projects are included in the ST3 proposal that is expected to be brought forward for voter consideration this November.

John Simpson
Councilmember

1. Expansion of light rail service in Tacoma to correspond with future light rail planning into the City of Lakewood and south Pierce County;

Marie Barth
Councilmember

2. Extension of the Sounder system from Lakewood Station to the City of DuPont to include a new Sounder Station located in the Tillicum neighborhood of Lakewood to serve both residents and members of Joint Base Lewis-McChord (JBLM) and their families. The station should have the capacity to handle both trains and buses;

Paul Bocchi
Councilmember

3. Extension of the Sounder train hours of operation, add more cars to current trains and more Sounder roundtrip trains;

4. Add Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) from the Tacoma Dome Station, operating along South Tacoma Way to Pacific Highway South, and into the Tillicum neighborhood via the new connector road; and

5. Modify the agreement with Sound Transit to transfer maintenance and security responsibilities for Lakewood Station back to Sound Transit.

John J. Caulfield
City Manager

If the final Sound Transit 3 plan lacks projects connecting Lakewood with the region, we are concerned that our community's support is at serious risk. The City's goals for these projects are to ensure that our local transportation needs are both recognized and addressed, and that our residents receive a fair share of projects funded in ST3, including due consideration for projects that advance the logical next steps of the light rail spine.

Lakewood's Support for Regional Transportation Projects

As a region, we share mutual interest in public transportation projects that decreases congestion and enhances economic development to help revitalize communities that drives responsible growth and creates jobs and opportunities. In recognition of these interests, the City supports expanding light rail service to Tacoma. We also support the extension of light rail to the Tacoma Mall from

the Tacoma Dome (S-05) since this alignment will allow for the southerly extension of the light rail spine to Lakewood and beyond.

In lieu of extending light rail south from Tacoma into Lakewood as part of ST3 at this time, we support the addition of BRT south from the Tacoma Dome to JBLM via Lakewood and the Tillicum neighborhood. The proposal is a cost effective means to expand bus ridership and reach JBLM service members and their families

Given that BRT projects and improved bus service proposals operating in Tacoma via (S-12), Puyallup via (S-13), and Sumner/East Pierce County cities via (S-14), then Lakewood should have a similar line operating along South Tacoma Way and Pacific Highway South. Moreover, BRT to JBLM and Lakewood via the Tacoma Mall, rather than the Tacoma Dome, is a preferred option, especially if the Sound Transit Board opts for light rail service terminating at the Tacoma Mall.

Lakewood is pleased to see several priority projects advance in the ST3 process, with four continuing candidate projects (S-06), (S-07), (S-15), and (S-17) that combine to expand Sounder commuter rail service by increasing hours of operation, adding more cars to current trains, and additional Sounder round trip trains. Each of these projects represents logical next steps in the expansion of the Sounder commuter rail system.

Projects (S-06) and (S-07) inevitably call for platform extensions at the Lakewood Transit Station. This expansion would result in added costs to the City of Lakewood since the City currently bears the responsibility for both maintenance and security of this Sound Transit owned facility. It is our understanding that the City of Lakewood is the only local agency independently responsible for managing a Sound Transit facility. Now is the time to transfer this responsibility and associated costs back to Sound Transit.

On behalf of the City of Lakewood, we thank each of you for your diligent work on ST3 and we respectfully ask you to consider the City of Lakewood's recommendations as you move forward to determine projects for inclusion in the ST3 package. We feel that Sound Transit has an opportunity to expand its services in Pierce County that provides enhanced interregional connectivity and mobility in a carefully planned and fiscally responsible manner. We remain committed to work with you to develop a ST3 proposal for voter consideration that meets the needs of the communities we serve and one which the voters will approve.

Sincerely,



Mayor Don Anderson

CC:

Deputy Mayor Jason Whalen
Councilmember Marie Barth
Councilmember Paul Bocchi
Councilmember Mike Brandstetter
Councilmember John Simpson
City Manager John Caulfield
Sound Transit CEO Peter Rogoff

Enclosures:

July 14, 2015 letter to Sound Transit, City of Lakewood
November 18, 2015 letter to Sound Transit, City of Lakewood, City of DuPont, and Town of Steilacoom



Don Anderson
Mayor

July 14, 2015

Jason Whalen
Deputy Mayor

Sound Transit Board of Directors
401 S. Jackson St.
Seattle, WA 98104

Mary Moss
Councilmember

Dear Sound Transit Board of Directors:

Michael D. Brandstetter
Councilmember

I am writing this letter on behalf of the City of Lakewood regarding a proposed Sound Transit 3 (ST3) which would build upon the existing mass transit system of light rail, commuter rail and bus services, and identifies options for expanding and improving the overall system in Pierce County. Lakewood is home to nearly 60,000 residents and close to 4,000 businesses. Moreover, Lakewood is strategically located along the I-5 Corridor, and is the "host community" for Joint Base Lewis-McChord (JBLM). Local public transit options serve not only the City and JBLM, but also residents of Steilacoom, University Place, DuPont and unincorporated Pierce County. With the current strong economy, increasing population, and rising congestion, Lakewood strongly supports the efforts of Sound Transit to expand multimodal public transportation options in the Puget Sound.

John Simpson
Councilmember

Marie Barth
Councilmember

The initial work of the Seattle/King County Corridor has been completed. It is now the time to expand transportation projects elsewhere. With that in mind, the City of Lakewood requests that the Sound Transit Board include the following projects as part of the ST3 package to be presented to voters for consideration in November, 2016:

Paul Bocchi
Councilmember

1. Extend the Sounder system from Lakewood Station to the City of DuPont and create a new Sounder Station located in the Tillicum neighborhood of Lakewood to serve both residents and members of JBLM and their families. The station should have the capacity to handle both trains and busses. Additionally, Amtrak will be using the rail line that extends through Tillicum starting in the latter part of 2016 and as Sounder and Amtrak rail activity expands along this line the new station should be built to handle increased capacity. The Tillicum Station has been slated for development within the City's Comprehensive Plan for many years with no objection from Sound Transit.

John J. Caulfield
City Manager

2. Extend the Sounder train hours of operation to better serve Lakewood and South Sound commuters. The expansion would significantly increase ridership and boost economic development. Sound Transit should tout the indirect economic benefits expanded service provides to many of the cities served by your agency.

3. Add Bus Rapid Transit (BRT), in lieu of, light rail from the Tacoma Dome Station South along South Tacoma Way to Pacific Highway South, terminating at the Tillicum Sounder Station. The proposal is a cost effective means to expand bus ridership for JBLM service members and their families. Further, South Tacoma Way is a main thoroughfare in

Tacoma, and Lakewood. Parts of South Tacoma Way in Lakewood alone move over 30,000 vehicles a day. With the level of activity, BRT it should be included in the Sound Transit long range plans. Without BRT, Sound Transit may be doing a disservice to many of its customers.

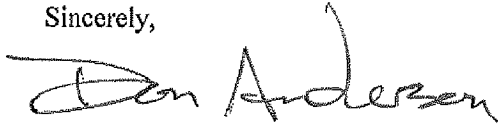
4. Modify the current agreement between Sound Transit and Lakewood whereby the City funds maintenance and security for the Lakewood Station. As part of a ST3 appropriation, Lakewood desires Sound Transit to cover annual facility costs. The current agreement has been in place since 2006. The City's ability to maintain the Station has become increasingly burdensome.

The proposed additions to ST3 are very much compatible with the Sound Transit priorities. It is my belief that these recommendations will:

- Expand the current system in a logical manner
- Further connect the region with High Capacity Transportation options
- Add socio-economic equity
- Combine/integrate operations with other transit operators (e.g. Amtrak)
- Increase multi-modal services
- Promote transit friendly land use and Transit Oriented Development
- Increase ridership
- Federal funding is available, especially in the case of BRT

For many years, Lakewood has been one of Sound Transit's strongest partners. Our working relationship is excellent, and no matter the outcome of any future election, that relationship will continue. The City's recommendations, combined with Sound Transit investments, provide economic opportunities, drives community growth and revitalization. To close, it is our hope that the Sound Transit Board will include our recommendations in the ST3 package.

Sincerely,



Mayor Don Anderson

CC:

Deputy Mayor Jason Whalen
Councilmember Marie Barth
Councilmember Paul Bocchi
Councilmember Mike Brandstetter
Councilmember Mary Moss
Councilmember John Simpson
City Manager John J. Caulfield



November 18, 2015

Sound Transit Board of Directors
401 S. Jackson St.
Seattle, WA 98104

Dear Sound Transit Board of Directors:

This letter comes from the Mayors of the City of DuPont, the City of Lakewood, and the Town of Steilacoom, representing the collective viewpoints of the more than 73,000 taxpaying residents of our communities. As their elected leaders, our goal is to ensure that our local public transportation needs are addressed, and that our residents get their fair share of projects funded in ST3. We are charged to do so in a manner that will not impact the traditional and limited funding mechanisms that are available to municipalities.

As a region, we share mutual interests in public transportation projects that enhance economic development and decreased congestion, as well as drive community growth and revitalization. Together, we support expanding light rail service to Tacoma recognizing that this extension of the light rail spine should be completed early on in the ST3 timeframe. We also support expanding Sounder service by increasing hours of operation, adding more cars to current trains, and additional Sounder round trip trains. The projects are logical next steps in the expansion of the Sound Transit system.

While we support further support expansion of light rail through our communities in the long term, we support the expansion of Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) into our communities as part of this package now. BRT is more cost-effective compared to light rail, and its implementation requires far less time. In our view, there are several benefits of adding BRT routes from Tacoma to our communities. Current ST3 proposals do call for some BRT expansions. However, we would specifically recommend adding routes that would connect Tacoma to Lakewood along South Tacoma Way to Pacific Highway South, as well as along Bridgeport Way. Additionally, BRT should run further south to DuPont and allow for connectivity to Steilacoom. If the goal is to create more connectivity to the transit system, then BRT currently is the best solution of expanding rapid transit beyond the Tacoma Dome.

We understand ST3 has been given the authority by the state legislature to finance ST3 with its traditional funding sources of sales tax and Motor Vehicle Excise Tax (MVET) as well as a local property tax levy. However, we do not support the use of local property taxes to finance ST3 given this is a change in how previous Sound Transit initiatives were financed.

As you know, many municipalities, to include ours, struggled financially throughout the recession and have not yet fully recovered. Local governments, school districts, fire districts, library districts, and other local taxing authorities rely heavily on these local property taxes. Sound Transit should thoroughly consider the impact that use of its property tax authority could have on our local funding capacity and that of our junior taxing districts.

We respectfully ask that you consider our recommendations as you move forward to determine projects for inclusion in the ST3 package. We feel that Sound Transit has an opportunity to expand its services in Pierce County in a carefully planned and fiscally responsible manner.

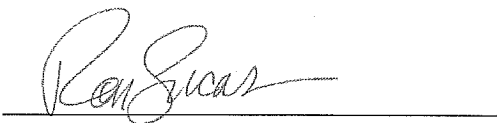
Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Michael Grayum", written over a horizontal line.

Mayor Michael Grayum, City of DuPont

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Don Anderson", written over a horizontal line.

Mayor Don Anderson, City of Lakewood

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Ron Lucas", written over a horizontal line.

Mayor Ron Lucas, Town of Steilacoom