

QUEEN ANNE COMMUNITY COUNCIL

1818 1st Avenue W

Seattle, WA 98119

January 9, 2016

To:

Ed Murray, Mayor of Seattle

Mike O'Brien, District 6, Chair, Seattle City Council Transportation Committee

Sally Bagshaw, District 7, Seattle City Council

Tim Burgess, Position 8, Seattle City Council

Lorena Gonzalez, Position 9, Seattle City Council

Scott Kubly, Director, SDOT

Jeanne Kohl-Wells, District 4, King County Council

The Sound Transit Board

Ric Igenfritz, Executive Director of Planning, Sound Transit

Karen Kitsis, Planning and Project Development Manager, Sound Transit

Subject: Sound Transit 3

The Queen Anne Community Council has reviewed the various routes that Sound Transit is considering for the light rail line from downtown to Ballard and northwest Seattle via Seattle Center and is pleased to support the route that we believe best serves our community.

The Queen Anne Community Council believes option 3, C-01C, best serves this area. It is the best choice to serve the larger employment centers in our area. This is the route that comes out of the Seattle Center area via Elliott and then crosses the 15th Avenue W corridor at West Prospect Street to go north along 20th Avenue West before going into a tunnel and crossing under the Ship Canal in the vicinity of 22nd Avenue West. It offers the most benefits with the least adverse impacts of the four routes under review.

It is important to our community that the chosen route does not reduce vehicular capacity on any of the major arterials serving this area. These would include Elliott, 15th Avenue West as well as Westlake. Also important is that the construction and use of the final route have the least negative impacts on our area. C-01C is the only route meeting these criteria.

We note that the Westlake route could negatively affect vehicular capacity on that arterial and would not serve some of the larger employers on the west side of Queen Anne like Expedia and the Port of Seattle. The Westlake route is not accessible to much of the eastside of Queen Anne because of the steep terrain and lack of east/west crossings at Aurora Avenue. The 15th Avenue West corridor is heavily used so routing the line along this right-of-way has even greater impacts on its capacity. Construction on either of the

arterials, Westlake or 15th Avenue West, would magnify congestion and create bottlenecks throughout the construction period.

The Queen Anne Community Council believes C-01C best serves Queen Anne residents. It connects Seattle Center major employment centers, including the coming Expedia headquarters operation, future development of the Port's property in the Uplands, and the jobs and residences at West Dravus, and in the industrial zone with the developing regional system. It is critical that stations be included to support these areas.

This route, unlike those on 15th Avenue West, has no negative impact on Fisherman's Terminal and the multi-billion dollar fishing industry centered there. Moreover, a tunnel under the Ship canal has much less impact in terms of land required and community impact than a bridge, and will offer far greater service reliability to transit riders.

We urge Sound Transit to adopt the C-01C routing through our neighborhoods to achieve the greatest benefit with the fewest negative impacts.

Sincerely,

Ellen Monrad
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