



City of Seattle
Mayor Jenny A. Durkan

February 28, 2019

Linda Gehrke, Regional X Administrator
Federal Transit Administration
915 2nd Ave, Seattle, WA 98174

Dear Administrator Gehrke,

I am writing to support the community request for at least a 15 day-extension of the scoping period for the Sound Transit West Seattle and Ballard Link Extension (WSBLE) project. As the Mayor of Seattle and a member of the Sound Transit Executive Committee and Board, the scoping period is needed to solicit feedback on mission, alternatives, impacts, and must be comprehensive and robust. I am committed to maintaining the schedule for the overall EIS process and WSBLE project and believe that this extension will improve our ability to meet the overall timeline by listening to the community early and throughout the project.

Our City plays a foundational role in the success of the regional Light Rail system, and the Chinatown-International District is the lynchpin for building a highly functional and operational connection for the North, South and East Link extensions. But in building this next generation transit system, we must be mindful of the real impact on this community.

We are supportive of the request by residents, civic, and business leaders of the Chinatown-International District and Pioneer Square neighborhoods for a scoping extension for gathering comments for the WSLBE project. It is my belief that gathering extensive scoping comments now will result in a thorough review of alternatives, opportunities, impacts and can help build a strong foundation for the planned expansion of Light Rail in Seattle.

These neighborhoods have large populations of communities of color and low-income residents who have not historically had the opportunity to fully participate in past FTA scoping processes. The City of Seattle recently provided a \$100,000 grant to assist the Historic South Downtown organization to assist them in building capacity and expertise to more effectively participate in the WSBLE scoping and DEIS process.

Thank you for considering this request.

Sincerely,

Jenny A. Durkan
Mayor of Seattle