September 20, 2017

Councilmember Lisa Herbold
Seattle City Council District 1
PO Box 34025
Seattle, WA 98124-4025

Subject: Fauntleroy Boulevard Project

Dear Councilmember Herbold:

Thank you for your letter dated May 9, 2017 regarding the Fauntleroy Boulevard project. I wanted to keep you up-to-date on conversations between Sound Transit and Seattle regarding the relationship between Seattle’s Fauntleroy Boulevard Project and the West Seattle and Ballard Link extensions. As discussed back in July, Sound Transit and Seattle have started conversations about the two projects and potential overlap. We understand the importance of the community vision for Fauntleroy and Seattle’s commitment to move forward on improvements. We share your concerns about the timing of investments in this critical corridor.

Sound Transit is prepared to kick-off the first phase of project development for the West Seattle and Ballard Link extensions. Discussions with the City of Seattle on a partnering agreement are ongoing. As part of these discussions we have continued conversations to address critical issues including the timing of the Fauntleroy Boulevard project and the West Seattle and Ballard Link extensions. We will continue to closely coordinate with the City to ensure close collaboration and an efficient use of public funds.

As you know, the representative alignment for the West Seattle light rail extension assumes a Duwamish water crossing and stations at Delridge, Avalon, and the Junction. We are in the process of bringing consultant resources on board to start the early technical work to develop feasibility studies on route alternatives. We are also in the process of developing Elected Leadership, Stakeholder, and Interagency workgroups. These groups are key to allow for close communication and collaboration with partners during alternatives development. The Board is scheduled to identify a preferred alternative in 2019. Sound Transit needs time to do these feasibility studies so we can have a full picture of the trade-offs and benefits of the available options as we move into highly constrained environments.
I look forward to working with you more as we move forward in our alternatives development process.

Sincerely,

Peter Rogoff
Chief Executive Officer

cc: Trinity Parker, Regional Government & Community Relations Manager
    Carrie Avila-Mooney, Central Corridor Manager