



King County



SEATTLE CITY COUNCIL | DISTRICT 1

COUNCILMEMBER LISA HERBOLD

King County Councilmember Joe McDermott

January 29, 2019

Mr. Peter Rogoff
Sound Transit
401 S. Jackson Street
Seattle, WA 98104

RE: West Seattle-Ballard Link Extension and the Delridge Community

Dear Peter,

We want to commend Sound Transit staff for their work on the West Seattle and Ballard Link Extensions (WSBLE). The team has been responsive to our requests for information as well as to our constituents' requests. Sound Transit staff show a genuine interest in receiving community input and for that we are grateful.

As members of the Elected Leaders Group (ELG) representing the Delridge community, we are reaching out to express our support for even deeper engagement with the residents and business owners there. Given the increasing density in the neighborhood and the bold transit-oriented development proposed in one of the alignment alternatives, we feel it is essential for the ELG to hear from Delridge residents and understand potential impacts each alternative could have on the neighborhood.

In the blue line study area, the low-income population, households below two times the poverty level, is more than 6% higher than the city average. Similar to the increased focus on (and additional meeting for) the new Chinatown/International District station, we ask that Sound Transit provide an opportunity for ELG members to further discuss Delridge prior to the ELG making Level 3 recommendations. Dedicated time for Delridge would allow the ELG to explore level three analysis in the context of issues raised in the Racial Equity Toolkit:

- Bus-rail integration for different station locations and how to best serve communities of color further south
- Equitable transit-oriented development opportunities, and
- Displacement and gentrification risks, both near potential station locations but also resulting from the choice between placement of alignments north or south of the West Seattle Bridge.

We recognize there is a lot of work that needs to happen between now and when the Sound Transit Board makes a decision in May of this year. Understanding the impacts for Delridge of our future recommendations is a critical piece of that work, and we look forward to working with you on it.

Sincerely,

Joe McDermott, District 8
King County Council, ELG Co-Chair

Lisa Herbold, District 1
Seattle City Council, ELG Member

Cc: Cathal Ridge, Carrie Avila-Mooney, Leda Chahim