



**BUSINESS OF THE CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF MERCER ISLAND**

**AB 6917
May 5, 2026
Consent Agenda**

AGENDA BILL INFORMATION

TITLE:	AB 6917: Eastside Transportation Partnership Letter in Support of Sound Transit Link Light Rail 4 Line.	<input type="checkbox"/> Discussion Only <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Action Needed: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Motion <input type="checkbox"/> Ordinance <input type="checkbox"/> Resolution
RECOMMENDED ACTION:	Authorize Councilmembers to vote in favor of the Eastside Transportation Partnership’s Letter in support of Sound Transit Link 4 Line.	

DEPARTMENT:	City Council	
STAFF:	Amelia Tjaden, Management Analyst II	
COUNCIL LIAISON:	Ted Weinberg	Julie Hsieh
EXHIBITS:	1. Eastside Transportation Partnership Letter in Support of Link 4 Line	
CITY COUNCIL PRIORITY:	n/a	

AMOUNT OF EXPENDITURE	\$ n/a
AMOUNT BUDGETED	\$ n/a
APPROPRIATION REQUIRED	\$ n/a

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The purpose of this agenda item is to seek City Council approval to support the Eastside Transportation Partnership’s Letter in Support of Sound Transit Link light rail 4 Line.

- The Eastside Transportation Partnership (ETP) provides an Eastside forum for inter-jurisdictional cooperation to implement coordinated, prioritized transportation plans and programs through leadership, education, and advocacy.
- The proposed [Sound Transit Link 4 Line](#) would connect South Kirkland to Issaquah, greatly increasing the connectivity of the communities on the eastside of Lake Washington.
- Sound Transit is facing a large projected budget shortfall, and the 4 Line is at risk of being delayed, deferred, or significantly scaled back.

BACKGROUND

Eastside Transportation Partnership

The Eastside Transportation Partnership (ETP) serves as the “transportation board for the area East of Lake Washington in King County to share information, build consensus, and provide advice on plans, programs, policies and priorities for countywide, regional, state, and federal transportation decisions.” Membership is comprised of elected officials from cities and towns throughout the Eastside. Mercer Island has two voting

members on the ETP. Councilmembers Ted Weinberg and Julie Hsieh currently serve as the City's representatives and attend the monthly meetings.

Sound Transit Link Line 4

The proposed [Sound Transit Link light rail 4 Line](#) would connect the communities on the eastside of Lake Washington. Beginning near the current South Kirkland Park-and-Ride, the proposed route would serve three existing stations — Wilburton, Bellevue Downtown and East Main stations — before heading further east through Eastgate to downtown Issaquah.

Sound Transit has projected a large budget shortfall in coming years. The Sound Transit Board is evaluating different approaches to updating the system plan in Summer 2026. The Link 4 Line is at risk of being delayed, deferred, or significantly scaled back as a result of the budget shortfall.

ISSUE/DISCUSSION

The Eastside Transportation Partnership has drafted a Letter of Support for the Sound Transit Link 4 Line (see Exhibit 1) urging Sound Transit Board Members to advance the 4 Line in a manner that is fiscally responsible, equitable, and responsive to community needs. The City Council needs to authorize Councilmembers Weinberg and Hsieh to vote in favor of the Letter in order to convey Mercer Island's support for the 4 Line.

RECOMMENDED ACTION

Authorize Councilmembers Weinberg and Hsieh to vote in favor of the Eastside Transportation Partnership's Letter in Support of Sound Transit Link 4 Line.