



EASTSIDE TRANSPORTATION PARTNERSHIP LETTER IN SUPPORT OF LINE 4

Beaux Arts
Bellevue
Bothell
Carnation
Clyde Hill
Duvall
Hunts Point
Issaquah
Kenmore
Kirkland
Medina
Mercer Island
Newcastle
North Bend
Redmond
Renton
Sammamish
Snoqualmie
Woodinville
Yarrow Point

Dear Sound Transit Board Members,

On behalf of the Eastside Transportation Partnership (ETP), we write to express our strong support for advancing the development of Sound Transit’s 4 Line serving East King County. As a collaborative body representing 20 Eastside cities, ETP is committed to ensuring an efficient, safe, and equitable transportation system that meets the needs of our growing communities.

First and foremost, we emphasize the importance of subarea equity. Voters approved Sound Transit investments with the clear understanding that revenue generated within East King County would be reinvested in East King County projects. Advancing Line 4 is essential to fulfilling that commitment and maintaining public trust in the agency’s long-term vision.

We also recognize the financial challenges facing major capital transit projects and are eager to partner with Sound Transit to identify cost-saving opportunities. We encourage consideration of strategies such as pursuing alternative options for parking with impacted jurisdictions, developing public-private partnerships, streamlining permitting, and prioritizing more cost-effective alignments, including options within the I-90 median and the Eastrail Corridor. These approaches can meaningfully reduce project costs while maintaining high-quality service.

Beyond cost containment, ETP is interested in exploring innovative approaches to streamline project delivery. This includes evaluating mechanisms such as tax increment financing (TIF) to bring additional financial resources to the project, as well as considering expanded permitting authority for Sound Transit. We stand ready to collaborate to advance these and other solutions.

Importantly, the 4 Line will serve communities with significant and growing transportation needs. The corridor connects underserved populations, including permanent supportive housing and shelter facilities near Eastgate, affordable and permanent supportive housing developments in South Kirkland and Factoria, and a forthcoming affordable housing project in Issaquah. Providing reliable, high-capacity transit to these communities is critical to advancing equity, access, and economic opportunity across the Eastside.

ETP is committed to working in close coordination with Sound Transit to advance the 4 Line in a manner that is fiscally responsible, equitable, and responsive to community needs. We appreciate your leadership and look forward to continued collaboration.

Sincerely,

Chair James Randolph
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Deputy Council President, City of Issaquah
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