



City of Bellevue

City Council

May 24, 2022

The Honorable Claudia Balducci
Chair, County Council
King County Council
516 Third Avenue, Room 1200
Seattle, WA 98104

The Honorable Kent Keel
Chair, Board of Directors
Sound Transit
401 South Jackson Street
Seattle, WA 98104

RE: East Link Connections Proposed Service Network

Dear Chair Balducci and Chair Keel:

On behalf of the City of Bellevue, I am writing in support of the King County Metro (Metro) and Sound Transit East Link Connections proposed service network.

Meeting the local and regional transit needs of Bellevue and the Eastside is a top priority for Council. Bellevue is expected to see an increase of 30,000 jobs by 2025. Multi-modal transportation options are a major part of the City's efforts to accommodate that growth.

Bellevue's Transit Master Plan (TMP) envisions a transit network that supports planned growth and development that provides efficient, useful, attractive service for most people, to most destinations, most of the time, serving maximum ridership. The plan presents a bold vision that transit is the mode of choice for an increasing number of people who live, work, shop and play in Bellevue.

The proposed service changes support the City's transit network vision by adding more all-day, all-week service, as well as creating more transfer opportunities so that riders can travel to many different local and regional destinations. We are pleased to see many of the key elements from the TMP reflected in the East Link Connections proposal.



The City of Bellevue appreciates the refinements made to the proposal over many months of engagement, including:

- Increased and equitable mobility for priority populations, particularly in the Crossroads, Factoria and Eastgate areas.
- Additional service frequency on more direct routes to achieve the City's vision of fast and reliable transit service.

East Link light rail implementation represents a transformational opportunity to reimagine the current bus network in Bellevue, respond to changing mobility needs, and improve mobility and access for historically underserved populations. We are pleased to see the importance of an integrated service network reflected in the East Link Connections proposal. The coordination between Sound Transit and Metro will result in improved connections to frequent, high-capacity transit.

We appreciate the outreach process that included members of City staff, elected officials and community members, which ensured broad participation during the development of East Link Connections. The City of Bellevue looks forward to working with Metro and Sound Transit as the East Link Connections network of services is implemented.

Sincerely,

Lynne Robinson, Mayor
City of Bellevue

cc: Bellevue City Council
Brad Miyake, Bellevue City Manager
Diane Carlson, Bellevue Deputy City Manager
Andrew Singelakis, Bellevue Transportation Department Director
Terry White, King County Metro General Manager
Peter Rogoff, Sound Transit Chief Executive Officer