

TO: Mayor Balducci and Councilmembers

FROM: David Berg, Transportation Department Director
Joyce Nichols, Director of Intergovernmental Relations

DATE: July 13, 2015

SUBJECT: ST3 Letter and Interest Statement

Per Council direction on July 6, several revisions have been incorporated in the City of Bellevue ST3 Interest Statement (Attachment 1) and comment letter (Attachment 2). **Staff is seeking Council approval of the revised documents in order to meet the July 15 comment deadline.**

The interest statement uses high-level policy statements to establish the City's overall direction and priorities for future transit service for Bellevue and the Eastside. The comment letter complements the interest statement by identifying specific projects from the Sound Transit Priority List that furthers the objectives of the City. Both the interest statement and the comment letter are ordered according to the City's priorities as previously directed by Council.

The attached interest statement and comment letter are in track changes (additions/~~deletions~~) reflecting revisions from the July 6 draft documents in the Council agenda packet. Following is a summary of the revisions:

- Reiterating the importance of maintaining subarea equity as the Sound Transit Board sets priorities for ST3 (second paragraph on page 1 for interest statement and comment letter);
- Emphasizing implementation of system access improvements rather than planning for them (priority 3);
- Implementing the 3-party agreement for relocating 120th Avenue NE to facilitate TOD at the OMSF site (priority 3);
- Evaluating and applying emerging technologies that can improve system access and ridership (priority 3);
- Combining priorities 4 and 5 to reframe around importance of connecting Eastside cities with a high level of transit service (HCT and regional express bus), including evaluating the most cost-effective mode of HCT (revised priority 4); and,
- Adding a new priority for TOD, including affordable housing (priority 8).

If Council approves the revisions, staff is seeking direction from Council in the form of a Motion. Draft motion language:

“Move to approve the Bellevue ST3 Interest Statement and Comment Letter and direct staff to transmit both documents to the Sound Transit Board to meet the July 15 deadline.”

Attachment 1: Revised Draft Bellevue ST3 Interest Statement
Attachment 2: Revised Draft Bellevue Comment Letter