



January 22, 2015

Larry Phillips, King County Council Chair  
Mike O'Brien, Seattle City Councilmember  
Tom Rasmussen, Seattle City Councilmember  
Sally Bagshaw, Seattle City Council member  
David Frockt, State Senator, Legislative District 46  
Jessyn Farrell, State Representative, Legislative District 46  
Gerry Pollet, State Representative, Legislative District 46

Dear Elected Officials:

Thank you for your December 19<sup>th</sup> letter regarding Northgate Pedestrian and Bicycle Bridge funding issues.

The Northgate Pedestrian and Bicycle Bridge will provide a safe and efficient crossing over Interstate 5 for bicyclists and pedestrians and will improve connectivity to the Northgate Light Rail Station, North Seattle College, the greater Northgate Urban Center and the surrounding neighborhoods.

As you know, the Sound Transit Board recognized the importance of these vital connections and committed \$5 million toward the bridge project when they approved Motion No. M2012 -42 on June 28, 2012. The Motion stated that Sound Transit funding was contingent on the City of Seattle matching this funding amount and obligated the City to identify remaining bridge project funding by July 2015. This funding commitment and deadline were approved by both the Sound Transit Board and the Seattle City Council.

The July 2015 date was identified as the original funding commitment deadline in order to allow sufficient time for Sound Transit to modify its Northgate Station final design plans to incorporate any changes required to accommodate bridge project needs prior to awarding the station construction contract in early 2016.

Sound Transit staff understands that the City of Seattle has not yet secured full funding for the bridge project and therefore will be making a recommendation to the full Board at its March 26 meeting to extend the deadline to **February 1, 2016**.

Sound Transit designers have already made changes to the Northgate Station mezzanine level to accommodate a future bridge connection to the station structure. However, based on an initial review of the City's bridge project conceptual design, there are several design and construction staging issues that must be further advanced by the bridge project team to facilitate a better understanding of the sequencing and coordination of bridge construction and its anticipated interface with Sound Transit's current construction plans.

In addition, there may be some bridge project cost saving opportunities if some of the bridge facility connections to the station are actually built by Sound Transit's station construction contractor. The design of these adjacent bridge facilities must be advanced further by mid-2015 in order to cost effectively add them to Sound Transit's construction contract documents before contract Notice to Proceed (NTP) is issued in early 2016. Sound Transit could face higher change order costs and potential construction delays if these improvements are added to contract after NTP.

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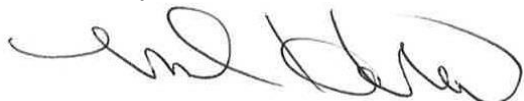
**Joni Earl**

Staff will be recommending the extension of the funding commitment deadline to February 1, 2016 date to ensure adequate time for the City's bridge project design and construction planning to advance and allow sufficient time for City staff to complete environmental reviews, and execute funding and other agreements with Sound Transit and other involved parties.

Sound Transit shares the goal of building the Northgate Pedestrian and Bicycle Bridge and is committed to our continued work together to support the City of Seattle's efforts to identify the remaining funding needed to complete this important facility.

Please feel free to contact me or Trinity Parker, Government & Community Relations, at [trinity.parker@soundtransit.org](mailto:trinity.parker@soundtransit.org), with additional questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mike Harbour". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "M" and "H".

Mike Harbour  
Acting CEO, Sound Transit

cc: Ahmad Fazel, Director of Design, Engineering, & Construction Management, Sound Transit  
Scott Kubly, Director, Seattle Department of Transportation

