



June 2, 2020

Elected leaders,

I am writing to thank those of you who were able to join me and Sound Transit Board Vice Chairs Paul Roberts and Dow Constantine last Friday, May 29, to discuss the financial impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on Sound Transit. Given the pressing issues facing all of us, we appreciate your time and attention. For those who were unable to attend, you will find attached to this letter the presentation that Sound Transit Chief Executive Officer Peter Rogoff delivered on the economic issues and uncertainties facing the agency, including information on the upcoming work of the Sound Transit Board to address these constraints.

As we discussed on Friday, while economic impacts of COVID-19 will be significant, Sound Transit has the potential to play a key role in our region's recovery from the recession, just as transit construction fueled our recovery from the Great Recession. When most of construction had gone dormant a decade ago, Sound Transit was one of the few entities hiring tradespeople off the bench. The agency has prioritized construction that is currently underway and under contract. After a pause in construction to ensure the health and safety of the construction workforce, we are pleased that construction is under way once again. Today, we are working to open 28 new light rail stations in the next five years.

As we begin the work of realigning the regional transit plan to meet our economic situation, Sound Transit will join other agencies and allies in urging that federal and state recovery efforts help keep our projects on track and maintain our place at the center of our economic recovery.

Most importantly, as the Sound Transit Board embarks on these difficult conversations, our success depends on collaboration with you, our various community stakeholders, state and federal partners, and the citizens we all serve. These are unprecedented times, and as elected leaders we face many challenges. By working together, I am confident we can successfully navigate the challenges ahead.

Thank you in advance for continuing to stay engaged. If you have questions or comments, please don't hesitate to reach out to CEO Rogoff at peter.rogoff@soundtransit.org.

As the realignment moves forward updates and documents will be posted at www.soundtransit.org/system-expansion/realignment.

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CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Peter M. Rogoff

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In partnership,



Kent D. Keel

Chair, Sound Transit Board

Attachment: Sound Transit COVID 19 Realignment Background (PDF)

Cc: Dow Constantine, King County Executive, Vice Chair, Sound Transit Board
Paul Roberts, Everett City Councilmember, Vice Chair, Sound Transit Board
Peter M. Rogoff, Chief Executive Officer, Sound Transit