



SHORELINE CITY COUNCIL

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Deputy Mayor Betsy Robertson
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Councilmember Laura Mork
Councilmember Eben Pobe
Councilmember John Ramsdell
Councilmember Chris Roberts

March 9, 2022

Mr. Mike Haynes, Assistant General Manager
Seattle City Light
PO Box 34023
Seattle, WA 98124-4023

Dear Mike,

Thank you taking the time to meet on Friday, February 25, to discuss delays relating to the 5th Avenue Duct Bank (Duct Bank), as well as the need for a stronger partnership between Seattle City Light (SCL) and the City of Shoreline. I appreciate our mutual commitment to the success of the regional investment in light rail and the enhanced access to housing choices, connection of job and educational centers, and improved environmental conditions through a focus on mass transit and urbanized development within our region.

As I shared with you, the City of Shoreline relied on the commitment that we understood existed between Sound Transit and Seattle City Light to complete the Duct Bank project in time to provide Sound Transit access to underground power to operate the Shoreline South/148th Station by 2023. I understand that the Duct Bank project has now been delayed with the first ten blocks of the project completed, at the earliest, in 2027 and the second ten blocks by 2030. This is a substantial delay and one that has forced Shoreline to enact an interim solution for Sound Transit by modifying long-held regulations requiring the undergrounding of new electrical extensions, to avoid impacting the start of light-rail service on the Lynnwood Link Extension. Although this City action will keep the opening of Sound Transit Lynnwood Link Extension on schedule and are grateful a solution was available, we are disappointed that the City was put in a position where we had to intervene by modifying our regulations.

The delay in the Duct Bank project also significantly stymies the development of transit-oriented development around the station and, specifically delays the construction of affordable housing so desperately needed in our region. Shoreline's zoning requirements around the station area include mandatory affordable housing requirements where developments must include units that are affordable to households making 70% or less of the median income for King County, with additional incentives for units to be affordable to those making 60% or less of the King County area median income.

During our conversation we committed to the following:

- Seattle City Light provide a formal written schedule and commitment on completion of the Duct Bank project. The City requests that the project proceed expeditiously. Seattle City Light's commitment needs to include the coordination and completion of the infrastructure needed for the Duct Bank project with the City's 145th/5th Avenue interchange/roundabout

project in the first quarter of 2023. This is necessary to avoid construction work impacts across the newly constructed interchange/roundabout area and the associated traffic impacts and associated reconstruction/restoration (and increased costs to Seattle City Light). The City preference is that Seattle City Light complete this work in advance of the start of work on interchange/roundabout project. We are willing to consider coordinating this work in the city project if it does not negatively impact the project cost, schedule and can be included in the design team workload.

- Seattle City Light engage in an on-going dialogue with the City, at both the staff and leadership levels, on the needs of electric infrastructure in Shoreline to meet our regional commitment to development that supports the housing and transportation needs of our region. This includes not only the Shoreline South/148th Station Area, but also the Shoreline North/185th Station Area, the SR 522/145th Bus Rapid Transit (SR 523 to 5th Ave NE) corridor, the 145th I-5 to Meridian corridor, and the 175th corridor from I-5 to Stone Ave NE. All of these projects require SCL investment by 2030.
- Exploration of financial policies that can allow for more rapid capital investment by SCL in the Shoreline community.
- A mutual understanding of Shoreline's regulations as it relates to the expansion and installation of electric infrastructure.

I recognize that these investments require capital investment that ultimately is funded through the SCL rate structure. Flexibility within the Seattle City Light financial policies to allow for investment throughout its service area is needed. Shoreline is willing to tell our story and support SCL's efforts to explore creative ways to finance these regional investments.

Thank you again for meeting with me. I look forward to on-going dialogue and to receiving your written commitment to a timeline for the completion of the Duct Bank project along with future commitments to meet capital investment needs in Shoreline through 2030.

Sincerely,



Debbie Tarry
City Manager
City of Shoreline

Cc: John Norris, Assistant City Manager
Juniper Nammi, Lynnwood Link Light Rail Project Manager
Tricia Juhnke, City Engineer
Randy Witt, Public Works Director
Christina Arcidy, CMO Management Analyst