

Bristol Ellington

From: Nathan Daum
Sent: Wednesday, January 14, 2026 4:36 PM
To: Bristol Ellington; Betsy Robertson
Cc: Eben Pobe; John Norris; Jim Hammond; Mary Reidy
Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] Request for Support: Interlocal Agreement for Community Use of SCL Land in Shoreline

Mayor Robertson,

Based on your interest in a discussion, City Manager Bristol Ellington has asked me to provide you with an update on the Economic Development initiative variously referred to as North City Commons/Arts & Eats/North City Station. (Credit goes to the community for these wonderful working titles for the project.)

Background:

Following the successful 2024 grand opening of the nearby light rail station, North City neighborhood leaders expressed a desire to activate the property owned by Seattle City Light on the northwest corner of 185th and 10th. This site has drawn a good deal of like-minded attention over the past year. The idea of food trucks and an artisan/art market at this site was among the topics receiving the most public comments during the past year.

City staff have been working to learn more about what it would take to successfully establish an “Arts & Eats” community asset at that location. Given the City’s limited resources, a key working assumption is that this initiative will be outsourced to one or more 3rd-party partners to operate and maintain it. We have spoken with local entrepreneurs and community leaders, including a food truck hub development group with a proven track record. We have consulted with technical staff at the City to make sure we had a complete picture. What we have learned has only increased our excitement and optimism that we can successfully make this happen. There is a possibility of moving forward quickly enough to have a pilot in place by the time of the World Cup.

Next Steps:

There are a handful of key next steps that we are currently pursuing:

Site control

We are working with Seattle City Light to immediately establish site control through a five-year agreement with an option for an additional 5-year extension. (In the long-term, we would anticipate a comprehensive Interlocal Agreement that covers a broad range of Shoreline/SCL issues (like the Interurban Trail), but taking this interim step allows us to move quickly enough to seize this opportunity.

Building a public/private partnership

We are exploring options including potentially a Request for Proposals (RFP) process or some other

selection process to identify private parties that would be willing to invest in our community and establish a project that realized the “Arts & Eats” vision. As partners in this project, we anticipate that they would be making substantial investments to bring this into operation (one of the reasons we need long-term security in our agreement with SCL).

Preparing for direct City investment

Council approved \$300,000 for demolition or renovation of the building on the site as a part of the Mid-biennial Budget Update. Staff will be moving funds from PRCS to Economic Development to enable those funds to instead be utilized for initial site improvements (potentially bringing this change to Council if needed). We anticipate that one or more private sector partners would invest in site improvements, too.

This location will be surrounded by new open space we are creating on City-owned land to the north of the site, and to the east (which would be the subject of the future Interlocal Agreement). This land was purchased through King County grant funding which has limitations on impervious surface development. The City recently completed the relocations of the residents in City-owned residential rental properties adjacent to the site. The City is currently preparing to begin later this year clearing and grading the sites to establish interim green space there while future design and funding efforts for future park development take place over the next several years.

Seeking additional State investment

The City has also had preliminary discussions with 32nd District legislators, who will be asked to support a capital budget request of \$300,000 for renovations to the building on the site. If successful, the City would utilize these funds to repurpose the existing building to add to the amenities on the site, including potentially additional murals, covered dining space and restrooms. This Capital Budget request is the centerpiece of Shoreline’s 2026 state legislative agenda. (This is the other reason we need the 10-year agreement with SCL.)

Initial preliminary activation

Staff are evaluating the feasibility of initial site activation in advance of the 2026 World Cup including fencing, landscaping, temporary restrooms to support community gatherings, a shipping-container-based art market, and food trucks. This would utilize the City dollars mentioned above as well as any investment dollars secured from partners. Thereafter, should the City succeed in obtaining state capital dollars, the City would utilize these funds to repurpose the existing building as a phase two of the initiative.

Staff does not have any questions for Council at this time but if you’d like this information presented for Council discussion let us know as we would be happy to do so.

Sincerely,
Nate

NATHAN DAUM City of Shoreline Economic Development Program Manager
Pronouns: he/him/his
desk (206) 801-2218 | **mobile** (206) 391-8473 | shorelinewa.gov



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From: Bristol Ellington <bellington@shorelinewa.gov>
Sent: Sunday, January 11, 2026 6:58 PM
To: Betsy Robertson <brobertson@shorelinewa.gov>
Cc: Eben Pobe <EPobe@shorelinewa.gov>; John Norris <jnorris@shorelinewa.gov>; Nathan Daum <ndaum@shorelinewa.gov>; Jim Hammond <jhammond@shorelinewa.gov>
Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] Request for Support: Interlocal Agreement for Community Use of SCL Land in Shoreline

Betsy,

I will ask staff to provide an update on this proposal. Thanks.

Bristol

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From: Betsy Robertson <brobertson@shorelinewa.gov>
Sent: Friday, January 9, 2026 4:44:32 PM
To: Bristol Ellington <bellington@shorelinewa.gov>; John Norris <jnorris@shorelinewa.gov>; Eben Pobe <EPobe@shorelinewa.gov>
Subject: Fw: [EXTERNAL] Request for Support: Interlocal Agreement for Community Use of SCL Land in Shoreline

I'm interested in discussion a potential path forward for this proposal.

Betsy Robertson
Councilmember, Pos. 6
City of Shoreline
17500 Midvale Avenue N
Shoreline, WA 98133
brobertson@shorelinewa.gov

From: Kevin Atkinson <wasabikev@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, January 8, 2026 11:21:37 AM
To: AlexisMercedes.Rinck@seattle.gov <AlexisMercedes.Rinck@seattle.gov>; Debora.Juarez@seattle.gov <Debora.Juarez@seattle.gov>; Rob.Saka@seattle.gov <Rob.Saka@seattle.gov>; Dan.Strauss@seattle.gov

<Dan.Strauss@seattle.gov>; Dionne.Foster@seattle.gov <Dionne.Foster@seattle.gov>
Cc: North City NA Board <ncna-board@googlegroups.com>; Nathan Daum <ndaum@shorelinewa.gov>;
chad.morrell@seattle.gov <chad.morrell@seattle.gov>; Greg.Sancewich@seattle.gov <Greg.Sancewich@seattle.gov>;
Bristol Ellington <bellington@shorelinewa.gov>; Betsy Robertson <brobertson@shorelinewa.gov>
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Dear Councilmembers,

I'm writing as Chair of the North City Neighborhood Association in Shoreline regarding an exciting opportunity to activate Seattle City Light property adjacent to our light rail station.

The City of Shoreline currently holds a temporary permit allowing limited community use of this SCL land through July 2026. However, to realize the full public benefit of this site a formal Interlocal Agreement (ILA) between Seattle and Shoreline is required. As members of the committee responsible for Seattle City Light matters, your leadership is crucial to advancing this project.

We respectfully ask that the ILA enabling community activation of this Seattle City Light property be scheduled for committee review and action during 2026. Your support in ensuring this project receives timely consideration will help unlock significant public benefit for both Shoreline and the broader region.

Thank you for your leadership and for considering this opportunity to expand the public benefit of Seattle City Light land.

Best regards,

Kevin Atkinson
Chair, North City Neighborhood Association
info@northcityna.org