



SCIDpda March 22, 2023

Seattle Chinatown
International District
Preservation and
Development Authority

Members of the Sound Transit Board of Directors,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the West Seattle-Ballard Link Extension light rail planning project.

We continue to value your leadership and appreciate your efforts to ensure the West Seattle Ballard Link Extension project serves our communities, advances equity and increases overall connectivity throughout our region.

About the SCIDpda Board of Directors

The Seattle Chinatown-International District Preservation and Development Authority (SCIDpda) is a nearly 50-year old community development organization that provides affordable housing to hundreds of residents and commercial spaces to over 40 businesses in our neighborhood.

The SCIDpda Board of Directors provides strategic guidance to the organization on issues that will majorly impact the future of our tenants, partners, and the neighborhood itself.

Our Position on the CID Segment Preferred Alternative

The SCIDpda Board of Directors agrees with the coalition of CID stakeholders urging Sound Transit to move forward with the 4th Avenue Shallow alternative for the WSBLE CID segment. Simply put, we believe that this option is the best choice for the future of our community.

Our positions on this decision (Motion No. M2023-18) are as follows:

- 1. We urge the Sound Transit Board of Directors to select the 4th Ave Shallow alignment as the preferred alternative for the WSBLE CID segment.** Based on all the information that has been studied by Sound Transit and reported publicly, this alternative clearly delivers the greatest benefit to the community and the region. Maintaining direct access to communities south of the CID via a Line 1 station within the neighborhood is necessary for both the current and future members of our community to stay connected to the CID. Selecting the 4th Ave Shallow alignment as the preferred alternative will allow Sound Transit to begin preparing the Final EIS for this segment, which responds to the call for urgent action that many members of the System Expansion Committee voiced at their March 9, 2023 meeting.
- 2. If the board *cannot* select 4th Ave Shallow at its March 23, 2023 meeting, then it should complete an EIS on any other alternatives under active consideration before deciding on the preferred alternative.** We must acknowledge that the CID community is not a monolith and that we often have internal disagreements on challenging decisions like this one. Some of SCIDpda's partners and supporters are supportive of the North and South of CID options. While we disagree with their conclusions, we fully recognize and support



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their right to be heard by Sound Transit. If the Board decides to conduct further study on these two recently-added station options, then it should first publicly share the results of that study before turning to the question of which option to select as the preferred alternative.

- 3. **Regardless of which option is selected as the preferred alternative, we urge the Board to commit to funding and providing technical support for mitigation measures capable of fully counteracting the impacts of the construction project.** While the CID is a resilient community, it already bears the burden of many decades of disruption and impact by transportation infrastructure, including the I-5 overpass, the First Hill streetcar, the BNSF railway, and wide arterial streets where drivers are most likely to seriously injure or kill pedestrians when they crash into them. Public agencies across many levels of government played a direct role in perpetrating these harmful projects of the past. The CID community is united in our demand that Sound Transit, the City of Seattle, King County, and other public partners commit to playing a direct role in preventing such harm from being repeated.

The SCIDpda Board of Directors urges you to select an alternative that can facilitate the next 100 years of community development, social connection, and economic prosperity of the CID. We ask that you select the 4th Avenue Shallow option as the Preferred Alternative and commit to supporting the CID with robust, publicly-funded, community-led impact mitigation.

Thank you for your leadership.

Sincerely,

The SCIDpda Board of Directors

Cindy Ju	May Wu	Aileen Balahadia	Myron Ramirez
Tiernan Martin	Miye Moriguchi	Elliot Sun	Kevin Cao
Wayne Lau	Jerilyn Young	Mindy Au	