



VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL

March 22, 2023

Board Administrator
Sound Transit
401 S. Jackson St.
Seattle, WA 98104

RE: Public Comments Sound Transit Board Meeting, March 23, 2023 – Select 4th Ave S. as the Preferred Alternative, Don't Cut Off the CID

Dear Sound Transit Board Members,

I am writing on behalf of Chinatown-International District Business Improvement Area (CIDBIA). CIDBIA is one of 11 Business Improvement Areas (BIAs) in the City of Seattle and represents over 500 ratepayers within the CIDBIA assessment boundaries. CIDBIA is a geographic based nonprofit organization that is tasked with improving and promoting Seattle's historic Chinatown-International District as a vibrant business district. Since its inception in 1995, CIDBIA has worked towards its mission of improving and promoting Chinatown-ID through four areas of work: sanitation, public safety, marketing and events, and advocacy. Creating a clean, safe, welcoming business district is critical in the economic vitality of small, medium, and large businesses in Chinatown-ID.

CIDBIA is part of a diverse coalition of voices in the Chinatown International District and Pioneer Square communities that are aligned on a path forward for the WSBLE project. **We believe Sound Transit must select 4th Ave S. as the preferred alternative and continue to partner with the community to identify solutions that minimize harm.**

A 4th Ave S. station has long been part of the broader vision for these neighborhoods and siting a station on 4th Ave S. provides the greatest opportunity for a pedestrian-friendly transit hub and more efficient regional connectivity. It is the only option on the table that has been fully studied, and then further refined, based on community input. We have yet to see how the newly proposed north/south option will affect our neighborhoods and – perhaps most importantly – how they will benefit our communities.

We know avoiding delay and additional cost is a top consideration when selecting a preferred alternative. Moving forward on 4th Ave S. keeps the system expansion project on schedule and leverages Sound Transit's most recent efforts to address the issues raised in the initial design of



the station. Abandoning that work at this stage to explore a new station plan will introduce delays and additional costs.

We do not accept the notion that moving a station outside of the CID avoids disruption.

The CID and Pioneer Square will still bear the brunt of construction impacts, but without the benefit of a station. Related, the City of Seattle is currently evaluating a slate of infrastructure projects in our neighborhood. The City and Sound Transit should collaborate to find construction efficiencies to minimize disruption and harm to CID and Pioneer Square residents. Sound Transit and City officials must work together to coordinate these massive projects, find areas of common ground and reduce the overall construction period to avoid overburdening a historically displaced community.

We have a shared desire for a light rail system that is efficient, user-friendly and provides for smooth and accessible connections. A station on 4th Ave S is the best option to achieve those goals and to serve the entire region and all the unique communities within it. It is critical to support the future economic vitality of the Chinatown-International District and Pioneer Square neighborhoods.

We ask the Sound Transit board to wholly consider the impacts to one of the region's most special, unique, and fragile communities and the residents and businesses who call it home. This decision will impact people, businesses, and the landscape of the CID for generations. Choosing the 4th Avenue alternative is the equitable and sensible option.

Sincerely,

Monisha Singh

Monisha Singh
Executive Director
Chinatown-International District Business Improvement Area