

## Letters of support for federal TIGER Grant funding of South Link: Sea-Tac Airport to South 200th Street



Write to express your organization's or your individual support for Sound Transit's application for funding of the expedited South 200th Street Station.

**Please address the letter to the Secretary of Transportation, with the following salutation:**

The Honorable Raymond H. LaHood  
Secretary  
U.S. Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE  
Washington, DC 20590

Re: Sound Transit - South 200th Street light rail extension TIGER III application

Dear Secretary LaHood:

(Write your letter of support here)

**cc:**

Senator Patty Murray  
Senator Maria Cantwell  
Governor Christine Gregoire  
Congressman Adam Smith  
Joni Earl, CEO, Sound Transit

**Send the original *signed* letter by Friday, Oct. 14th to [rachel.smith@soundtransit.org](mailto:rachel.smith@soundtransit.org) or...**

Sound Transit  
Attn: Rachel Smith  
401 S. Jackson St.  
Seattle, WA 98104

The letter will be distributed to USDOT and the cc: list. ***DO NOT send the letter directly to USDOT.***

**The most effective letters speak to the importance of the project from your own perspective** as a local jurisdiction, employer, community organization, or transit user. Tailor the letter to your own circumstances, and use the following points to help support the requirements of the TIGER application.

Here are some points that you can make that help us create a stronger application:

### **Transit**

- Sound Transit's regional high capacity transit system is a vital component of the overall transportation system.
- Total use of the South 200th Street Station will be 5,400 trips per day.
- The Puget Sound region voted to support light rail, and with this extension, the north-south light rail line in 2016 will grow to over 20 miles, connecting even more people to their jobs, families, and resources.
- Light rail provides more than 95% on-time service and operates 20 hours of the day, including weekends.
- This project will connect directly to the King County's Bus Rapid Transit service.

### **Economic competitiveness**

- This project will create over 2,000 jobs.
- Between 3.5 to 5 million square feet – an area the size of the Sea-Tac Airport terminal or larger – of transit-oriented, mixed use development is planned surrounding the station area, bringing jobs, growth and opportunities to an area with almost no recent history of growth.
- Public-Private economic development is planned around the South 200th Street Station area.
- This station directly serves Sea-Tac International Airport – which has a regional impact of over \$13.2 billion, has 22,000 jobs, and is the 17th busiest airport in the US, serving over 31 million passengers annually.
- This intermodal station will immediately connect people in the south Puget Sound to major employment centers in downtown Seattle, three professional sporting venues, institutions of higher education, major health care facilities, and the international global health community in Seattle.

### **Partnership**

- 57% of the voters in the Puget Sound region approved ST2 and this project has funding partners in the State of Washington, the Puget Sound Regional Council, the Port of Seattle, and the City of SeaTac.
- The TIGER III grant request would fund the balance, joining federal with state and local dollars together to extend this critical light rail development.

### **Livability**

- There is a significant transit-dependent population in South King County.
- In some census tracts around the South 200th Station, 28% of households are living below the poverty level and 16% of the population living around the Station is elderly.
- Approximately 42% of the City of SeaTac's population is non-Caucasian, with more than 80 nationalities and 70 different languages represented in this diverse community.

### **Pedestrians and Bicycles**

- An extensive network of non-motorized improvements links the South 200th Street Station to the surrounding community.
- Regional trails, including the Des Moines Creek Trail and the future Lake to Sound Bike Trail are in the South 200th Street Station area.

### **Sustainability**

- Annually, the project is estimated to reduce nearly 26 million vehicle miles traveled from the congested I-5 corridor.
- This project reduces travel time to downtown Seattle by approximately 19 minutes per trip. It will reduce travel time to the University of Washington by 27 minutes per trip (a 33% and 38% travel time reduction).
- This project saves nearly 1.3 million gallons of gasoline (costing an estimated \$4.9 million) per year and reduces over 6,180 metric tons of greenhouse gases per year.
- The South 200th Street Station is designed to be LEED Silver, promote car-sharing, and provide charging stations for electric vehicles.