



February 27, 2012

Mr. Peter Hahn  
Director, Seattle Department of Transportation  
City of Seattle  
Seattle Municipal Tower, 700 Fifth Avenue, Suite 3800  
PO Box 34996  
Seattle, WA 98124-4996

RE: Funding and Cooperative Agreement between the Central Puget Sound Regional Transit Authority and the City of Seattle for the Implementation of the First Hill Streetcar Connector:  
City Certification of Project Capital & Operating Scope, letter dated February 22, 2012

Dear Mr. Hahn:

This letter is in response to your February 22, 2012, letter to me certifying on behalf of the City that the bid documents for the First Hill Streetcar project (the "project") meet both the capital and operating requirements of the project scope, consistent with the Funding and Cooperative Agreement (the "Agreement") for the project.

First, I want to congratulate you, your staff and consultants in reaching this significant milestone for the project. Per the Agreement, the City provided Sound Transit the opportunity to review and comment on the project's 30, 60, and 90 percent design documents, and at our request, extended that review to 100 percent design. I know that you have worked very hard to address the comments and issues that have been raised during this review process, and I trust that the products of this effort will prove helpful and effective in achieving the goal of constructing and operating a superior transit connection between the Capitol Hill and International District/Chinatown Link light rail stations and the First Hill and other adjacent communities.

Second, I want to offer to you Sound Transit's continued assistance as the project moves to the construction phase. The Agreement anticipates a robust public outreach effort, and both our agencies have extensive experience in keeping the public informed and addressing their concerns during the construction of major public projects. As the project's major funding partner, Sound Transit has a stake in ensuring that this combined experience is utilized to its fullest. While the Agreement stipulates and we expect the City to lead and implement communication with all the parties affected by and interested in the project, Sound Transit staff is prepared to advise and assist with this important task. I trust you will keep us informed of your outreach efforts and will let us know how we can help.

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**Joni Earl**

Third, the Agreement allows Sound Transit the opportunity to monitor and inspect progress during construction. My staff will work with the City's project management to determine a schedule for when these activities would be most beneficial, such as during vehicle assembly and testing, and track and signal installation.

Fourth, the ability of the streetcar system to provide frequent and reliable connections along the corridor is extremely important to its users and operators, and, as you know, to Sound Transit. Specific service frequencies and span of service are stipulated in the Agreement, and you have certified that the system's design and draft operating plan will achieve these levels. We also understand that you intend to contract with King County Metro for the operation and maintenance services. As you work toward agreement with Metro, Sound Transit would like to stay informed about any changes or developments that might affect how the streetcar system is operated and by whom.

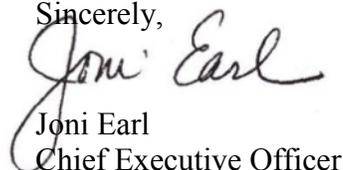
Further, since fares will be set and retained by Sound Transit, ORCA cards must be accepted, and the operator will have a direct role in the fare media distribution, fare collection and enforcement, Sound Transit will need to remain involved as the final operating plan and agreement are developed.

Lastly, the City's prior experience with designing, constructing, and operating a streetcar system within its own rights-of-way confers efficiencies in implementing this project, and the Agreement acknowledges this. As both our agencies are aware, even with the best planning for a project of this size and complexity, unanticipated events and situations may arise during construction and operation that impact costs. With this said, please bear in mind that any costs incurred that exceed the funds provided by Sound Transit under the Agreement are the responsibility of the City.

Our overall interest is, of course, to assist the City in creating and operating a successful streetcar system, one that meets the goal of providing convenient transit access between the First Hill neighborhood and the regional light rail system, and that accomplishes this consistent with the project scope as described in our Agreement. Toward that end, please let me know what other actions we can take to help keep the project moving forward. I and my staff are always available to provide assistance.

Thank you for providing your letter of certification for the project and for keeping me informed about your next steps and schedule as you move into the construction stage for project. I look forward to continuing our work with you (and eventually taking a ride to First Hill on the streetcar!) Please contact me if you need anything or want to discuss this subject further.

Sincerely,

  
Joni Earl  
Chief Executive Officer

cc: Ric Ilgenfritz, Executive Director, Planning, Environment and Project Development  
Ahmad Fazel, Executive Director, Design, Engineering and Construction Management