



King County

Dow Constantine

King County Executive

401 Fifth Avenue, Suite 800

Seattle, WA 98104-1818

206-263-9600 Fax 206-296-0194

TTY Relay: 711

www.kingcounty.gov

August 15, 2022

The Honorable Claudia Balducci
Chair, King County Council
Room 1200
C O U R T H O U S E

Dear Councilmember Balducci:

This letter transmits a proposed Ordinance that would, if enacted, approve the transfer of the Downtown Seattle Transit Tunnel (DSTT) from King County to Sound Transit. The transfer of this asset represents an opportunity to synchronize rail expansion and all relevant maintenance activities provided by King County, consistent with current and future rail operations in the DSTT and the region.

The DSTT is a 1.3-mile-long pair of tunnels with four stations: Westlake, University Street, Pioneer Square, and International District. The DSTT was built by the Metropolitan Municipality of Seattle prior to the 1996 merger of Metropolitan Municipality of Seattle and King County. The DSTT was used by buses from its opening in 1990 until 2005 and then shared by buses and light rail from 2009 until 2019, with rail service beginning in 2009. Link light rail has been the sole transit service in the DSTT since 2019.

The County is not seeking cash consideration from Sound Transit in exchange for conveying title to the DSTT because the DSTT was publicly funded for public transit and transportation purposes over 30 years ago and will continue to be used for public transit and transportation purposes. Transferring the DSTT to Sound Transit relieves the County of the burden of insuring, operating, and managing it as a County asset.

The transfer of the DSTT supports the King County Strategic Plan goal to deliver a safe, reliable, and seamless network of transportation options to get people and goods where they need to go, when they need to get there as well as the goal of efficient, accountable regional and local government.

Thank you for your consideration of this proposed Ordinance. This action will help King County residents enjoy a safe, well-maintained DSTT for years to come as a key element in the regional expansion of the Link light rail system.

The Honorable Claudia Balducci

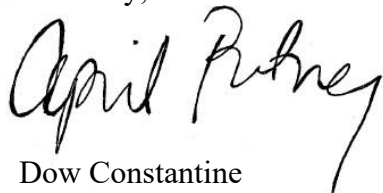
August 15, 2022

Page 2

Transmitted concurrently and separately to this proposed Ordinance is proposed legislation which would amend the existing Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) between King County and Sound Transit to reflect this transfer. I am therefore requesting that proposed transfer agreement and the proposed IGA amendment be considered together by the Council.

If your staff have any questions, please contact Kim Becklund, Strategic Planning Manager, Capital Division, Metro Transit Department, at 206-263-1160.

Sincerely,

 for

Dow Constantine
King County Executive

Enclosure

cc: King County Councilmembers

ATTN: Stephanie Cirkovich, Chief of Staff

Melani Pedroza, Clerk of the Council

Shannon Braddock, Chief of Staff, Office of the Executive

Karan Gill, Deputy Chief of Staff, Office of the Executive

Mina Hashemi, Council Relations Director, Office of the Executive

Terry White, General Manager, Metro Transit Department (MTD)

Michael Chargualaf, Interim Director, Capital Division, MTD

Caroline Whalen, County Administrative Officer, Department of Executive Services
(DES)

Anthony Wright, Director, Facilities Management Division, DES