



March 5, 2021

Terry White, General Manager  
King County Metro Transit  
201 South Jackson Street  
Seattle, Washington 98104

Re: U District Partnership support for proposed North Link Connections service change

Dear Mr. White,

I am writing this letter in reference to the North Link Connections Mobility project on behalf of the U District Partnership (UDP), a 501(c)3 organization that serves as the program manager for the U District Business Improvement Area.

The UDP was a participant on the project's Partner Review Board, and we commend the North Link project team for their inclusive and thorough community engagement process. As a part of the Partner Review Board, we were able to provide a significant amount of feedback on several phases of the project. Specifically:

- The project team positively received our input in regards to service routes around the new U District Light Rail Station. Throughout the Partner Review Board process, the project team balanced the need for accessibility to the light rail station with the number of new service routes running down NE 43<sup>rd</sup> Ave. While the final service route proposal will still deliver significant impacts to NE 43<sup>rd</sup> street and its businesses and residents, the project team did decrease the final number of buses per hour along that street from the original proposal.
- The final service route proposal spreads layover in the U District between 12<sup>th</sup> Ave NE and NE 50<sup>th</sup> St, specifically that of the Route 48. We believe this is important for congestion mitigation along NE 43<sup>rd</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> Ave NE.

It is important to underscore that the service changes that are part of the North Link Connections project will have an impact on the University District for years to come. The U District Partnership believes it is important for King County Metro to continue working with us to ensure any conflicts between layovers and neighborhood vitality are solved and impacts are mitigated. Therefore, while we reserve the right to revisit these issues in the future, we are appreciative of the opportunity to participate in this process.

Best,

Katy Ricchiuto, Urban Vitality Program Manager  
The U District Partnership

Cc: King County Executive Dow Constantine; King County Council Chair Claudia Balducci; Maha Jahshan, North Link Community Engagement Lead; Dave VanderZee, North Link Project Manager