



April 2, 2021

Terry White  
General Manager  
King County Metro Transit  
201 S Jackson St  
Seattle, WA 98104

Subject: Support for Metro's RapidRide J Line Alignment Ordinance

Dear Mr. White:

This letter is to express the City of Seattle's support for RapidRide J Line, which will deliver important transit mobility connecting Downtown Seattle with the neighborhoods of Belltown, South Lake Union, Eastlake, and the University District. The project will connect major employment hubs and dense neighborhoods with a diverse mix of housing and services to other transit services, including the Seattle Streetcar network; Link light rail stations in Downtown Seattle and the University District; other Metro RapidRide lines serving the Third Avenue transit corridor; and many other regional and local transportation services.

SDOT, in partnership with Metro, is seeking a Small Starts grant from the Federal Transit Administration. This funding, along with other federal and regional grants and local City funds, comprise the capital funding package for RapidRide J Line. SDOT and Metro plan to leverage the federal investment to deliver a high-quality, successful RapidRide Line serving a high-ridership corridor in the Metro system. The funding package accounts for recent Metro transit capital and operating budget adjustments made in response to COVID-19 pandemic financial impacts. SDOT and Metro are working together on a project memorandum of agreement; it is scheduled to be executed by the end of the year.

SDOT concurs that the planned RapidRide J Line alignment and station locations, referred to as the U District option in project environmental documents, is preferred. This route will allow RapidRide J Line to serve important locations and reach the desired level of service which incorporates both coverage and speed. RapidRide J Line is expected to significantly increase transit ridership in the corridor by providing frequent, more reliable service and faster travel times with excellent customer satisfaction. We also support the original project up to Roosevelt and we look forward to continued partnership to work toward that ultimate alignment.

The City of Seattle appreciates Metro's partnership to contribute financially to the project, specifically assuming ownership of RapidRide J Line operation and maintenance for both service and passenger facilities once it is completed. We look forward to continuing our partnership with Metro and its RapidRide team during project implementation.

If you have further questions or need assistance from Seattle on this project, please do not hesitate to contact Maria Koengeter, SDOT's Transit-Plus Multimodal Corridors Program Manager, at 206-733-9865 or [maria.koengeter@seattle.gov](mailto:maria.koengeter@seattle.gov).

Sincerely,



Sam Zimbabwe (Apr 2, 2021 16:52 PDT)

Sam Zimbabwe  
Director