



April 23, 2026

Dear Sound Transit Board,

I have deeply appreciated working side-by-side with each of you over the last several months as we work through the Enterprise Initiative together. I know that we all bring our local perspectives to this regional effort. This is a time of tough choices in our board work and I want to express my gratitude for your public service and active engagement on behalf of all our communities.


In light of these difficult decisions, and in recognition of the passion that is felt in Everett and Snohomish County to see light rail delivered to our region, I wanted to share with you an important and critically relevant new path that the City of Everett is undertaking.


As you all know, I am committed to our work to build the spine to Everett because I know how transformative this investment is and what it will mean for our growing community. Our City has put in place new transit oriented, middle housing and “middle plus” zoning; we have adopted incentives to encourage growth; we are implementing a Vision Zero plan to ensure pedestrians and bicyclists are safe in Everett and can choose to access transit as part of their trips. We have heard from every corner of our city support for these initiatives. We are ready for the future and ready for light rail.

Yesterday, alongside Community Transit CEO Ric Ilgenfritz, I announced the resumption of joint work toward the consolidation of Everett Transit with Community Transit, forming a unified and expanded transit network to better serve Everett and Snohomish County residents. This will result in nearly doubling our local transit service, ensuring that our City is prepared to welcome light rail and provide excellent rider experience when the new EVLE stations open.

Everett currently operates a municipal transit system that stops at the city border. We are one of the few remaining municipal transit providers in the state, and the only one in the Puget Sound region.

We are ready to support a strong, regional transportation system that works in lockstep with Sound Transit’s network. With a consolidated transit network, riders travelling both from and to Everett will benefit from more frequent service and fewer transfers which will make choosing transit more convenient. This consolidation would also position our region to engage in long-range planning with Sound Transit for seamless bus-transit integration with light rail and other investments.

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As you already know, our City, Snohomish County and the City of Lynnwood are currently working hand in hand with Sound Transit project staff to streamline permit review and expedite our processes. With this new commitment to local transit service, Everett is ready to launch forward into a brighter future for high capacity transit and local transit service.

Should you have any questions about this effort, please let me know. As a strong regional partner, committed to seeing Sound Transit fulfill one of its core tenets of regional connectivity, I am excited to be able to share this news with you and look forward to continuing our work together.

Sincerely,



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