



THE CITY OF FIRCREST

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April 15, 2026

Sound Transit Board of Directors
c/o Board Administrator
401 S Jackson St
Seattle, WA 98104

Subject: Fircrest Priorities for Sound Transit 3 (ST3) Implementation

Dear Members of the Sound Transit Board of Directors,

On behalf of the Fircrest City Council and its residents, we submit this letter to outline our critical priorities and expectations for the implementation of the Sound Transit 3 (ST3) plan within our region. We urge the Board to ensure a balanced investment strategy that finishes the “spine” and completes the Tacoma Dome Link Extension, while also achieving other promised investments in the Tacoma Community College Link Extension and enhanced Sounder regional rail service.

Fircrest remains a dedicated partner in the vision for a regionally connected mass transit system. We encourage the Sound Transit Board to continue to creatively solve problems and advance projects forward. Pierce County has been waiting decades for regional light rail connections – it is time for Sound Transit to fulfill that commitment.

1. Tacoma Community College (TCC) Extension

The extension of the T Line from the Tacoma Dome to Tacoma Community College is essential for expanding transit equity and serving the urban core. This is a high-value project for Pierce County due to its in-street design and its service to the growing communities of Fircrest, University Place, and West Tacoma. Quite literally, the terminus of the TCC extension is at an intersection shared by those three cities and the college, which serves 12,000 students from its 150-acre main campus. The cities, the college, and other partners have worked together for years on an initiative called the “Four Corners” to ensure that the jurisdictions jointly plan for a transit-oriented future that centers around light rail. Additionally, this line will serve a central Tacoma campus that is home to a Triple-A baseball stadium, a regional sports complex, and a high school, as well as a separate hospital campus. The entire extension features high transit-oriented development potential.

- **Accelerated Planning:** This project faces a deficit of information compared to most other major projects in ST3. Since planning has not begun, we do not know if the \$2.5 billion estimate is within range or overstated. We also don’t know what percentage of that cost is for a new bridge over SR-16 and if alternatives that avoid a bridge are possible. More planning is needed to better understand the scope and cost of this project. Therefore, we
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urge the Sound Transit Board to advance planning and route analysis on the TCC extension so the agency can make more informed and strategic decisions about the implementation of this crucial project.

2. Link Light Rail: Tacoma Dome Link Extension (TDLE)

The Tacoma Dome Link Extension (TDLE) represents the singular, vital connection that finally integrates Pierce County into the comprehensive Puget Sound light rail network. For decades, Pierce County has been a major contributor to the regional economy and tax base, yet its residents, workers, and businesses have lacked access to the high-capacity, congestion-free transit options available in King and Snohomish Counties. The TDLE is the overdue fulfillment of a regional promise.

It is essential that the project adhere to its currently adopted schedule. The mandate is clear: **Finish the spine to Tacoma without further delay.** This connection is fundamental to the long-term prosperity, sustainability, and connectivity of Pierce County and the entire Puget Sound region.

3. Sounder Commuter Rail Enhancements (Increased Trips)

Sounder service is the backbone of regional commuter transit for Pierce County. Many of our residents use this system to reach jobs in King County. Focusing on more trips throughout more times of the day and week should be the priority of the Sound Transit Board.

- **Increased Off-peak Service:** By focusing on more trips, the agency can serve a regional rail backbone that is more usable by traditional commuters as well as swing shift workers, students, and families. The focus should be on more trips, not longer trains and peak capacity.
- **Creativity to DuPont:** The promised DuPont Extension provides a unique opportunity to deliver better transit service to South Pierce County and beyond. By utilizing Federal Railroad Administration grants and creative service options on ST-owned track, this project could be delivered in an affordable and timely manner.

The City of Fircrest stands ready to work with Sound Transit and regional partners to extend light rail. We are doing this through upzoning and land-use planning, and understanding best practices on permitting to make our community an easy place for Sound Transit to invest in. At the same time, we remain cautious about future plans and designs, as well as the potential use of eminent domain for the project. However, we want to ensure that our community benefits from a project they are helping to fund. With these considerations in mind, we support continued efforts to extend the line southward.

Sincerely,

City of Fircrest City Council
