

November 4, 2008

Mark Johnson, AIA, NCARB, Project Manager  
Sound Transit Capital Project  
Union Station  
401 South Jackson Street  
Seattle, WA 98104

Dear Mark:

The Engineering Division appreciated the opportunity to meet last week to discuss project issues. To assist with the review of the project, the Engineering Division requests answers to the following initial questions:

### **South 'C' Street Crossing**

- Public Works follows the AASHTO policy for Roadway design. Is there a federal railroad policy for rail design? Is this policy being used to recommend the closure of South 'C' Street?
- Are at-grade rail crossings designed so that trains are able to stop in time if the crossing is blocked?
- At what speed will the trains be crossing South 'C' Street (up or down hill)?
- How long will it take to get from the South Tacoma Station to the Dome Station at the design speed? At what point does the train reach the design speed and when does it begin slowing (crest of hill). What would be the loss in service (time) if the design speed was reduced?
- We keep hearing that the 2.85% grade is the steepest grade in the country for this type of track. Are we designing a dangerous situation?
- What is the plan for traffic mitigation if South 'C' Street is closed?
- What is the design speed for the remainder of the route to Seattle/Everett?
- Are the other at-grade crossings through Tacoma safe? What makes the other at-grade crossings different from the South 'C' Street crossing?

- Why was the closure of 'C' Street not vetted thoroughly with the Council months ago?

### **Pacific Avenue**

- In Sound Transit presentations to City Council and in the SEPA Addendum, Pacific Avenue was to be lowered 10' to 11' to allow clearance under the rail structure. What changed to necessitate lowering Pacific Avenue by 15'?
- What is the rail design speed for the horizontal curve from approximately 'A' Street to the Mission? Could a tighter curve move the Pacific Avenue crossing to the north and reduce the Pacific Avenue cut?
- What are the revised grades for Pacific Avenue, South 26<sup>th</sup> Street, and South Tacoma Way?
- What is the schedule for the soil report and the options to support the elevated track?

Please let me know if I can help clarify any of these questions.

Thank you,

Chris Larson