

Hillside Development Council

Position on Sound Transit D to M St. Rail Connector

Community Goals

- ◆ Improve arterial traffic flow and linkages
- ◆ Preserve Historic Highway 99 as a community asset
- ◆ Minimize business closures and relocations
- ◆ Minimize train and vehicle conflicts
- ◆ Create new commercial development opportunities
- ◆ Improve the sense of entry to Downtown Tacoma and the Dome District

Project Ratings

- ◆ Alternative 3 Modified {grade separation going through Star Ice}: **acceptable** with conditions outlined below.
- ◆ AIA “F” {cut & cover}: **possibly acceptable** subject to further engineering information.
- ◆ EIS Preferred Alternative {at grade crossing}: **unacceptable** due to the disruption to Pacific Avenue, Highway 99 and minimizing train and vehicle conflicts.
- ◆ Alternative 2 Modified {grade separation, “Berlin Wall”}: **totally unacceptable** due to disruption of Highway 99, eliminating commercial development opportunities and disrupting arterial traffic flow.

Alternative 3 Modified

We feel that this plan provides the best possibility of meeting the community goals. The following items have been identified as needing positive solutions to make this project effective to the City of Tacoma.

Positive Solutions:

- ✓ Improve arterial traffic flow and linkages: “C” street should remain open through to South Tacoma Way.
- ✓ Minimize business closures and relocations: the City and Sound Transit must work together with the businesses in the path of the route to ensure that they have the possibility of remaining successful, profitable tax paying entities.
- ✓ Improve the sense of entry to Downtown Tacoma and the Dome District: the bridge crossing Pacific Avenue must fulfill this requirement. Preserving the green space on the south side of Highway 99 is a positive feature of this plan.
- ✓ Create new commercial development opportunities: every effort must be made to keep the property fronting Highway 99 as viable commercial lots. Consideration must be given to the effects on the major development plans in the Dome District.

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