City of Seattle

Transit Advisory Board

TAB Members:
Ezra Basom
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Zach Shaner
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Erin Tighe
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*The Seattle Transit Advisory Board shall **advise** the City Council, the Mayor, and all departments and offices of the City **on matters related to transit** and the possible and actual impact of actions by the City upon all forms of public transportation.*

*The Board shall be provided the opportunity to comment and make recommendations on City policies, plans, and projects as they may relate to **transit capital improvements, transit mobility, and transit operations** throughout the City...*

*The Board shall help facilitate City policies, plans, and projects that support local and region-wide transit mobility efforts, to help **ensure a functioning and coordinated transit system** throughout the City and region.*

*The Board shall function as the **public oversight committee of revenues collected under Seattle Transportation Benefit District (STBD) Proposition 1**, as described in Resolution 12 of the STBD...*

The Board shall make an annual report to the City Council on the status of its work program and the achievement of its goals.

City Council Resolution 31572

Date: March 4, 2016

To: Sound Transit Staff and Board Members

Subject: Link Light Rail and Discounted Bus Tickets

For over twenty years, King County Metro has worked with social service organizations to ensure that our county's most vulnerable residents have access to public transit through the Reduced Fare Ticket Program. This program allows agencies to purchase single-use tickets in bulk at a discounted rate to distribute to their clients or members. These tickets are a lifeline for homeless and very low-income adults, and for many youth, for whom the cost of even a reduced fare is prohibitive.

Neither these tickets, nor the transfers riders receive after using them on a Metro bus, are accepted as proof of payment on Sound Transit services. The obstacles to mobility that this creates for homeless and very low-income riders will increase substantially after Metro's U-Link Restructure goes into effect on March 26.

In 2014, the County Executive initiated an important effort to improve integration and cooperation between Sound Transit and King County Metro. Working together to improve a cross-agency Reduced Fare Ticket Program would be a great opportunity for this kind of cooperation.

Last fall Seattle and King County declared a homelessness state of emergency. The 2016 One Night Count found over 4,500 people sleeping outside in King County, an increase of 19% over last year. Part of the solution to this crisis is to ensure that people experiencing homelessness, and people at risk of homelessness, have the transportation they need to access work, housing, shelter, medical appointments, and social services.

As Sound Transit services expand, riders who rely on Reduced Fare Tickets will increasingly be left with a second-class transit system. In addition to a serious loss of mobility for King County's most vulnerable residents, failure to address this situation may result in dangerous and costly confrontations

between riders who cannot pay and Sound Transit's fare enforcement and transit police.

We urge you to work with Metro and with social service organizations to address this problem. We encourage you to explore potential solutions such as a Day Pass accepted by both Metro and Sound Transit. Until a solution is found that is equitable for riders and practical for social service organizations, Sound Transit could accommodate riders who rely on Reduced Fare Tickets by resolving to accept both the tickets and the paper transfers that riders receive after using the tickets on a Metro bus. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Carla Chávez
Odessa Stevens
Harriet Wasserman
Katie Wilson

Members of the Seattle Transit Advisory Board,
   on behalf of the whole Board