



City of Seattle

Mayor Jenny A. Durkan

October 18, 2019

Dear Members of the Seattle Bicycle Advisory Board:

Thank you for reaching out to Mayor Jenny Durkan to voice your support for her “Fare Share” plan to invest in workers, transit, and housing near transit. We are deeply grateful for your continued partnership as we work to build a safer, more connected city.

We appreciate your feedback on the structure of the increased charge on Transportation Network Companies (TNC). We are confident that SBAB will continue to be crucial partners as we continue our engagement on what an equity-centered road pricing policy could look like here in the City of Seattle. We believe that – done right – road pricing could be an ideal tool to help incentivize residents to utilize available high-quality transit and other transportation options rather than driving vehicles.

Mayor Durkan completely agrees that we must fulfill our commitments made in the Bicycle Master Plan Implementation Plan as quickly and comprehensively as possible. The Seattle Department of Transportation (SDOT) has made significant progress on our connected bike network in 2019. We have completed over eight miles of bicycle facilities this year and are on track to build 12 miles of facilities by the end of this year.

In addition, Mayor Durkan’s 2020 Proposed Budget includes nearly \$31 million in new investments in transit and transportation safety projects, including \$10.35 million in bike safety projects like protected bike lanes and neighborhood greenways. Mayor Durkan’s legislation to sell three underutilized City properties at Mercer Street, which is one of the most significant real estate transactions in the City of Seattle’s history, makes these new investments in bike safety projects possible. Proceeds from that sale are projected to generate \$16.7 million in new dollars to support new and planned transportation projects throughout Seattle.

Given the new proceeds that will be generated from the sale of the Mercer Street properties, the City is prioritizing the new revenue from the Fare Share plan to fund another critical transportation project: the Center City Connector streetcar. The Center City Connector represents a unique opportunity to connect our downtown, and move people out of single occupancy vehicles and onto transit. In 2018, the streetcar program saw an 18 percent ridership increase, and a 31 percent increase specifically on the First Hill line. After funding the Center City Connector, new revenue from the Mayor’s Fare Share plan will fund transit, bicycle, pedestrian, and safety projects.

Thank you again for reaching out. We sincerely appreciate your partnership on this issue.

Sincerely,

Elliot Helmbrecht
Transportation Policy Advisor
Office of Mayor Jenny A. Durkan