



Seattle City Council

Honorable Michael McGinn
Mayor, City of Seattle
Seattle City Hall, 7th Floor

July 7, 2010

Dear Mayor McGinn,

I appreciate receiving your explanation for transmitting Council Bill 116878 back to the City Council without your signature. I wanted to take a moment to clarify our rationale for unanimously approving this legislation related to future transit planning.

We welcome the opportunity to work together on developing a Transit Master Plan (TMP) that outlines a vision for future transit investments that align with our Comprehensive Plan and growth management goals. This must be a robust planning exercise that requires careful examination of a range of transit investment alternatives. These alternatives must be measured and evaluated based on numerous factors including (but not limited to) costs, competing City policy objectives, compatibility with regional transit planning efforts, and public input. As with any intellectually honest analytical exercise, it would be inappropriate to identify the specific transit mode investments before having considered a range of alternatives and options based on evaluative criteria.

We are puzzled by your assertion that our intention was to exclude light rail from this analysis. Our intention is exactly the opposite – to ensure that no mode is given preferential treatment and that all modes be considered. We were concerned that you intended to use this as a vehicle to develop light rail alternatives while excluding other viable modes. We are glad to learn from your letter that you appear to agree with our approach.

Seattle Department of Transportation staff and Council Central staff are working together to develop a detailed scope of work that achieves our apparent collective goal of objectively assessing transit investments. Council Bill 116878 is aimed at this goal – which is what the public expects and deserves from an \$800,000 planning effort. Once this scoping effort has been completed, the Council will expeditiously consider legislation to advance the TMP.

We are committed to wise and prudent investments of public dollars to enhance the availability of frequent and reliable transit service in Seattle. We look forward to working with you and your staff on this comprehensive transit planning effort.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Richard Conlin".

Richard Conlin
Council President

City Hall, 600 Fourth Avenue, Floor 2, PO Box 34025, Seattle, Washington 98124-4025
(206) 684-8888 Fax: (206) 684-8587 TTY: (206) 233-0025

<http://www.seattle.gov/council>

An EEO employer. Accommodations for people with disabilities provided upon request.