

February 17, 2026



Honorable Mayor Mark Mullet  
Issaquah City Council  
130 E Sunset Way  
Issaquah, WA 98027

Dear Mayor Mullet and Issaquah City Council,

I write on behalf of the City of Kirkland to share our strong concerns about Issaquah's recent advocacy around potential changes to Sound Transit's planned 4 Line and to share Kirkland's perspective on how the region should approach potential changes to the ST3 light rail program.

Like Issaquah, the City of Kirkland has consistently supported expansion of regional transit. Our communities voted for ST3 as an integrated system intended to function as a cohesive network across subareas. If scope adjustments must be considered to address budget realities, those discussions should remain collaborative and regionally grounded, with a focus on preserving system connectivity and long-term mobility outcomes.

We understand that Sound Transit is considering a range of approaches to address the significant budget shortfall and that individual jurisdictions are understandably seeking ways to protect the projects most impactful to their residents. However, any discussion about altering project scopes should be grounded in a process that genuinely reflects broad regional priorities and maintains the integrity of system connectivity approved by voters. If Sound Transit must evaluate project changes, the region should work collaboratively to ensure such changes still meet the collective needs of the region.

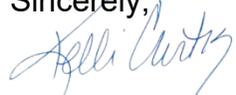
To that end, Kirkland cannot support a proposal that would terminate the 4 Line in South Bellevue and eliminate direct connections to Downtown Bellevue and South Kirkland. Truncating the line in that manner would materially diminish network performance and diverge from what voters approved.

That said, we are open to innovative cost-saving strategies and alternative delivery approaches that maintain core connectivity. I welcome continued dialogue between our cities to ensure we advance solutions that serve both our communities and the broader Eastside in a balanced and constructive way.

The region has historically succeeded when we approach shared challenges collaboratively, with a focus on collective benefits rather than zero-sum outcomes. As these conversations progress, we encourage a regional lens that balances local priorities with the broader vision approved by voters — one that delivers a fully connected, high-capacity transit network capable of supporting growth, sustainability, and mobility across the Puget Sound.

We look forward to working collaboratively with the City of Issaquah to achieve our shared vision.

Sincerely,



Kelli Curtis, Mayor  
City of Kirkland

