



**North End Neighborhood Council
2522 N. Proctor St., PMB #418
Tacoma WA 98406**

**Sound Transit
401 South Jackson St.
Seattle, WA 98104**

March 3, 2008

**Re: Letter of Support of North End Neighborhood
for Tacoma Intracity Streetcar Network in Next Sound Transit Proposal**

Sound Transit Board,

In 2007, the North End Neighborhood Association voted to support a streetcar proposal in a letter to the Tacoma City Council. We wrote:

In cities as different as Dallas, Portland, Memphis and Issaquah, the cost of this particular form of mass transit proved minimal compared to the benefits reaped by its implementation...

Streetcars create better ridership than bus service, which will reduce automobile traffic and parking pressure. They complement a pedestrian streetscape, thus helping make neighborhoods more livable. They offer clear routing for both visitors and residents, and they help connect folks to the regional transit systems and to different neighborhoods. They have also proven themselves to be an effective economic development tool.

With the Failure of Proposition 1, we support Sound Transit placing an intracity streetcar network within the city and believe that this must be in the next Sound Transit proposal with prompt funding. We agree with Tacoma Streetcar's statement that "...*any Sound Transit proposal in the future must contain funding for a streetcar system in Tacoma connecting its neighborhood mixed use centers*" and "*the streetcar system should have an aggressive timeline, commencing on the passing of the ballot measure.*"

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Jonathan Phillips
Chair, North End Neighborhood Council

Cc: Mayor Bill Baarsma, Tacoma City Council, City Manager Eric Anderson