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January 12, 2023

To: Sound Transit System Expansion Committee

Cc: Sound Transit Board of Directors

RE: Resolution R2023-03, SR522 BRT Project

The Lake Forest Park Stewardship Foundation is a nonprofit organization dedicated to the protection and improvement of the natural environment within the watersheds of Lake Forest Park. We have been in existence since 1998, working successfully with all levels of government, tribes, and a strong community of supporters. In recent years, we have emphasized efforts to maintain and enhance our urban forest and to improve water quality and stream habitat to someday “bring the salmon back” to our waters.

It has become clear to our Board that the current design to build the SR522 BRT lanes comes at too great an environmental cost for the very slight (1-2 min transit time) gain sought by Sound Transit.

The issued DNS did not adequately consider potential environmental impacts of this project. The number of trees forecast to be removed along Bothell Way from LFP Town Center to the Seattle border at 145th will be significantly detrimental to our water and air quality, wildlife habitat, quality of life, and create a shocking concrete corridor entryway devoid of trees, into a City with “Forest” as our middle name. There is nowhere within the project area or within Lake Forest Park to replant enough trees to replace those lost. Additional impervious surfaces will increase stormwater runoff from roads, containing 6PPD-quinone known to be highly toxic to salmon. There was not adequate review of the impacts of adding a lane to the bridge over the salmon-bearing stream, Bsche’tla Creek, which passes under SR 522 in a steep ravine and flows directly to Lake Washington. Cutback of the westside hillside (private properties) will greatly increase noise and air pollution to those neighborhoods as well.

We request that the Expansion Committee not take action on Resolution R2023-03 and recommend instead *at least* the 90 day pause requested by the City of Lake Forest Park. We request that a full Environmental Impact Statement be completed for this project, as the DNS was improperly issued given the significant potential impacts listed above.

Sincerely, Kim Josund, President

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