



To: Sound Transit Executive Board members

From: [West Seattle SkyLink](#) Team

Date: April 7th, 2022

At the March 24 board meeting, CEO Rogoff announced that Sound Transit was preparing a study of the SkyLink gondola at the request of board member Constantine in January. Mr. Rogoff said he would report on the study findings today, and they would be posted on the Sound Transit website; however, we do not see an agenda item related to the study. Has it been postponed so Sound Transit can take a more in-depth look that covers alignment options, tower locations, capacity, cost estimates and other key elements?

CEO Rogoff's March 24 announcement surprised us. No one from Sound Transit has contacted SkyLink about this study. **Sound Transit's only discussion with SkyLink occurred in early January of 2021, more than a year ago,** and shortly before the \$11.5 billion deficit was announced and realignment was triggered. Since then, the SkyLink team has spent a great deal of time learning more about local and regional transit needs, light rail options, and gondola technologies and applications. So, we wonder what exactly is Sound Transit studying?

The DEIS has given West Seattle residents and businesses a better picture of the impact that light rail will have on its communities. Concerns are rapidly mounting about how disruptive, destructive, inequitable, environmentally damaging, and costly it will be. We are attaching some photos and renderings from the DEIS to illustrate why residents and businesses are upset, and how a gondola alternative might look.

At your March 30th public input hearing for the West Seattle DEIS, more than half of the commentators asked Sound Transit to consider a gondola as an option for connecting West Seattle to light rail stations in SODO and the International District. To date, more than 1,350 West Seattle residents have signed a petition asking Sound Transit to fund an independent study by aerial transit experts – as the cities of Kirkland, Vancouver BC, Pittsburgh, and Los Angeles have done.

We urge you to study this alternative before more than a thousand people may have to find new homes, businesses are adversely affected, acres of green space are wiped out, and lengthy construction causes traffic congestion and pollution.

Note illustrations on next pages:

Do you recognize the current view looking west on Genesee between Delridge and Avalon?



Here is a rendering of what the same area would look like with light rail (figure 2.7c in Sound Transit's WSBLE DEIS)



Looking at Genesee going east from Avalon:

Would you rather have SkyLink? (rendering by framewiz)



Or light rail: (from Sound Transit DEIS)



Note: the areas depicted as green fields/landscaping in Sound Transit's renderings are spaces where buildings and flora have been removed to construct the viaduct.