



Resolution to Save Ballard Rail and ST3 Projects

WHEREAS Sound Transit 3 (ST3) passed in the 43rd District by an overwhelming margin in 2016, with the Yes vote hitting 70% or higher¹ in many 43rd District precincts,

WHEREAS one of the major transit projects approved in ST3 is the Ballard Link Extension, running through the 43rd LD, connecting downtown Seattle to Belltown, Lower Queen Anne, Interbay/Magnolia, and Ballard,

WHEREAS the Sound Transit board passed a proposal² that would “defer” the stations at Smith Cove, Interbay, and Ballard, indefinitely delaying these voter-approved transit projects,

WHEREAS Seattle and Washington State are continuing to suffer the impacts of the climate crisis, with personal automobiles being a primary source of carbon emissions³ in the Puget Sound area,

WHEREAS delays to transit projects will make it even more difficult to reduce our carbon emissions and address the climate crisis,

WHEREAS gas prices continue to soar across our city, reminding us of the urgency of building affordable methods of transportation for Seattle residents and businesses,

WHEREAS Members of the 43rd District Democrats have experienced the benefits of having Link Light Rail connect their community,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the 43rd District Democrats express disappointment for the Sound Transit vote to “defer” the Ballard Link Extension, and instead call on the Sound Transit board to commit to building all of ST3, including the Ballard Link Extension to Market Street, as soon as possible.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the 43rd District Democrats urge our state legislators and other local elected officials to work with the Sound Transit Board to explore the viability of utilizing financial tools like 75-year bonds, raising Sound Transit’s legal debt limit, expanding tax

¹ Seattle Transit Blog article on the statistic mentioned:
<https://seattletransitblog.com/2016/12/27/st3-precinct-map-and-more/>

² The Urbanist article on Sound Transit proposal:
<https://www.theurbanist.org/sound-transit-ideas-stop-short-of-delivering-rail-to-ballard/>debt ,

³ King County Government report with information on the impacts of automobiles’ carbon emissions:
<https://your.kingcounty.gov/dnrp/climate/documents/201907-KingCounty-GHG-Emissions-Analysis.pdf>
debt

increment financing, direct state funding, and permitting reform to find the funds necessary for completing the Ballard Link Extension⁴.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the 43rd District Democrats urge our state legislators and other local elected officials to work with the Sound Transit Board to consider using cheaper construction options and implementing international best construction practices, such as automating the Ballard and West Seattle lines, standardizing fire codes with National Fire Protection Association 130, elevating Ballard Link alignment, and expediting planning for additional cost-saving opportunities.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the 43rd District Democrats urge our state legislators and other local elected officials to work with the Sound Transit Board to adopt the financial tools and cost-saving measures needed to build the Ballard Link Extension and all of the ST3 projects as soon as possible, without compromising safety, ridership, or community needs.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that this resolution be sent to the Sound Transit Board of Directors, King County Council, King County Executive Girmay Zahilay, Seattle City Council, Mayor Katie Wilson, and our state representatives, including State Senator Jamie Pedersen and State Representatives Nicole Macri and Shaun Scott.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the 43rd LD Democrats urge our members to contact the Sound Transit Board of Directors, King County Council, King County Executive Girmay Zahilay, Seattle City Council, Mayor Katie Wilson, and our state representatives, including State Senator Jamie Pedersen and State Representatives Nicole Macri and Shaun Scott to encourage them to support the necessary legislation and regulatory changes to keep the Ballard Link Extension financially viable and able to be completed by the originally proposed schedule.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Secretary of the 43rd LD Democrats report back on the response from the aforementioned recipients of this resolution at the 43rd LD Democrats General Meeting immediately following its adoption.

Submitted by Ryan Talen to the July 14, 2026 General Meeting of the 43rd LD Democrats.

⁴ A local activist group called Save Ballard Rail's proposed solutions to the financial issues facing the Ballard Line Extension: https://saveballardrail.org/lets-save-st3?page_id=218