

April 11, 2023

Via Email

Chair Dana Ralph  
Transportation Policy Board  
Puget Sound Regional Council  
1011 Western Ave. – Suite 500  
Seattle, WA 98104

Subject: Extension Request for MOU-29

Dear Chair Ralph,

The City of Mountlake Terrace would like to express support for the Veterans Memorial Park Trail Light Rail Access (MOU-29) project one-year extension. The extension was submitted to Puget Sound Regional Council staff in March. Soon thereafter the City received notification that PSRC staff were recommending a denial of the extension request.

This project is essential to the City of Mountlake Terrace's future plans with the redevelopment of Town Center and the opening of Light Rail. The pedestrian access improvements made in this project leverage local and federal funds (fully funded) to create a community that we all can live, work and play now and in the future. A large portion of funds are drawn from local and regional sources that will maximize the investments being made in light rail throughout the Puget Sound area. Access to and from Mountlake Terrace, being the first stop in Snohomish County on light rail, will improve connectivity between transit, jobs and housing.

Currently the project is in the 60% design phase. We expect to be ready to accept bids for construction by September 2023, which is only a three month delay. If the extension is not accepted, the reduction of \$577,581 (11%) to our project budget of \$5,077,581 could be devastating in the current bidding climate.

PSRC staff recommended denial based on the idea that continued delays due to staffing issues not being consistent with adopted tracking policies. This is the first and only extension requested for this project due to some unforeseen circumstances internally and externally. Our small city has seen extensive staff turnover in the engineering department (over half the department) as well as other project specific issues such as Stormwater, SEPA/NEPA agency timelines, as well as complicated design work involving critical habitats. The City has overcome many of these obstacles but just needs a few months to accomplish the project objectives.

Please consider this request for a one-year extension as endorsed by the City.

Sincerely,



Stephen Clifton  
Interim City Manager  
City of Mountlake Terrace