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March 20, 2026

Dear Councilmembers,

I write on behalf of the West Seattle Chamber of Commerce, the organization that has served as the backbone of small business support in West Seattle for more than 103 years. In that time, we have connected more than 320 businesses, financial institutions, and neighborhood organizations to the resources they need to start, grow, and remain sustainable. That history is the foundation of the trust the business community places in us.

As the City considers strategic investments in business development and outreach, we ask to be included in those conversations.

It is concerning that the Chamber has not been part of recent funding discussions regarding West Seattle business outreach, including today's. We are the established, community rooted partner with trusted relationships and infrastructure already in place. In a limited resource environment, investing in duplicate programs confuses small businesses, dilutes available support, and erodes public trust. We encourage you to consider directing resources to what is already working in West Seattle.

On the West Seattle Link Extension specifically, our most recent member survey found that 50% expressed support, 26% were neutral, and 24% had concerns, with top priorities including business protection and compensation, customer access during construction, and station designs that strengthen long term commercial connectivity.

We will continue to share these findings with partners as we support meaningful dialogue throughout this process.

We would be honored to partner with the City in this work and respectfully request to be included in all future discussions of the West Seattle Link Extension process.

Thank you,

Rachel Porter
Executive Director
West Seattle Chamber of Commerce