

1 SEATTLE, WASHINGTON; THURSDAY, DECEMBER 13, 2012

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3 MAYOR MIKE MCGINN: Mike McGinn.

4 First of all, I just want to thank the  
5 agencies for giving this opportunity for the public to  
6 be heard.

7 And I'm standing here joined by four city  
8 council members, and in fact all nine city council  
9 members and I have signed a letter which contains the  
10 written testimony regarding the scoping we'd like you  
11 to take a look at.

12 The fact is that these trains, 18 potential  
13 trains, a mile long each, will go from one end of our  
14 community to the other, through our industrial areas,  
15 next to our waterfront, and past residences as well.

16 We have very serious questions regarding the  
17 effect on commuters, effect on freight traffic, effect  
18 on public safety; our emergency responders who must go  
19 from one side of the tracks to the others. How will  
20 it affect our transit system. The very significant  
21 health questions raised around coal dust in the  
22 communities that are next to it. The effects on water  
23 quality and habitat. And of course the challenges  
24 that are faced by increasing global warming pollution,  
25 which has affects here locally in the state of

1 Washington.

2 In order to get a better understanding of  
3 this issue, we commissioned a study, SDOT, our local  
4 Department of Transportation, commissioned a study  
5 from Parametrix to look at the traffic impacts  
6 locally. The findings indicated that it would  
7 significantly increase delays near Belltown and in  
8 Sodo at our at-grade crossings. That railroad  
9 crossing gates will be down an additional one to three  
10 hours each day.

11 That level of traffic impact now raises  
12 questions about economic impacts locally caused by  
13 this, so we have commissioned an economic impact study  
14 as well.

15 Our study of our local impacts, and we have  
16 the resources locally to commission these studies, are  
17 a window into the types of impacts locally that will  
18 occur in communities the length of the state of  
19 Washington from east to west, from north to south. We  
20 believe you need to take a close look at all of these.

21 It is our urging that you take a look at all  
22 of the areas near the proposed train route and be as  
23 comprehensive as possible in understanding those  
24 impacts.

25 Thank you.