

South Lake Union Friends & Neighbors

SLUFAN

Councilmember Richard Conlin (All Councilmembers)
Seattle City Council
City Hall, 2nd floor
600 – Fourth Avenue
Seattle, WA 98104

October 22, 2003

Re: Seattle Streetcar Appropriation - 2004 Proposed Budget

Dear Councilmember Conlin:

The South Lake Union Friends & Neighbors (SLUFAN) are in support of the \$6 million appropriation identified in the Mayor's proposed 2004 budget that would allow for the critical next steps in the development of the streetcar system. We urge members of the Seattle City Council to approve non-city general funds (state and federal funding) for the Seattle streetcar that will allow for the next phase of design development.

While members of SLUFAN have legitimate questions and concerns about the Seattle streetcar system, the Seattle Department of Transportation must be given the opportunity to utilize funding from the state and federal level to conduct the next phase of design and value engineering plus developing costs figures for construction and operations. This key information will assist all of us in better evaluating and reaching a decision on moving forward with construction of the streetcar system. A work plan or scope of work needs to accompany the appropriation of streetcar funds and should delineate how the funds would be used and specifically answer key questions that have been raised by both Council and members of SLUFAN.

With SLUFAN being the stewards over the South Lake Union Neighborhood Plan, the proposed streetcar would meet the following specific plan recommendations:

- T – 51 “Explore shuttle/circulator connections with Downtown and Seattle Center”
- T - 41 “Conduct an intra-neighborhood study of a north/south boulevard through South Lake Union”

SLUFAN members have heard from other stakeholders in the neighborhood and there is a growing base of support for the streetcar that includes Cornish College, Spruce Street

School, Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center, Seattle Biomedical Research Institute, Rosetta Inpharmatics, Rebuilding Together Seattle, Nordstrom, The Westin Hotel, and local small businesses. In addition, during the September 25th "Experience South Lake Union" open house over 1000 community members packed the Consolidated Works facility to learn about neighborhood projects. The streetcar exhibit was a popular venue with over 130 persons signing-up to support the proposed streetcar for South Lake Union.

There is a tremendous opportunity to begin the creation of a larger streetcar plan and public transportation system that can serve and benefit Downtown Seattle and adjacent neighborhoods. A private funding opportunity exists with property owners paying over 50% of the project cost. The need exists for the leadership of Seattle to execute public transportation options that have been both functionally and economically successful in other cities and provides an attractive alternative to the car especially with 20,000 jobs projected for South Lake Union.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment and SLUFAN looks forward to a strong working relationship with Seattle City Council members regarding issues and projects within South Lake Union.

Yours truly,

Ed Geiger
Chair
SLUFAN

Robert Grossman
Chair, Planning and Public Policy Committee
SLUFAN

Copies: All Councilmembers
Mayor Nickels
Mary Jean Ryan
Grace Crunican