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OFFICE OF HEARING EXAMINER

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6 In the Matter of the Appeal of

THE BALLARD COALITION

of the adequacy of the Final Environmental Impact Statement, prepared by the Seattle Department of Transportation for the Burke-Gilman Trail Missing Link Project

NO. W-17-004

NOTICE OF APPEAL [CORRECTED]¹

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NOTICE OF APPEAL [CORRECTED]

The Ballard Coalition, an unincorporated association of labor, business, and industry groups, which includes among its members the Martin Luther King, Jr. County Labor Council of Washington, AFL-CIO (Labor Council), General Teamsters Union Local No. 174 (Teamsters), Salmon Bay Sand & Gravel Company (Salmon Bay), the Ballard Terminal Railroad (BTRR), the Ballard Interbay Northend Manufacturing & Industrial Center (BNMIC), the North Seattle Industrial Association (NSIA), CSR Marine (CSR), and the Seattle Marine Business Coalition (SMBC) (collectively, the "Ballard Coalition"), hereby submits this Notice of Appeal of the May 25, 2017 Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) issued by the Seattle Department of Transportation (SDOT) for the Burke Gilman Trail Missing Link Project (the Project), a copy of which is available at http://www.seattle.gov/transportation/BGT Ballard.htm and a courtesy copy of Vol. 1 of which is included with the original Notice of Appeal filed with the Hearing Examiner.

SEATTLE HEARING EXAMINER

¹ The Ballard Coaltion is submitting this Corrected Notice of Appeal to change citations to the Seattle Municipal Code, Chapter 25.05, instead of WAC Chapter 197-11, and to correct typographical/gramatical errors.

The Ballard Coalition is the successor in interest to, and includes many of the members of, the Ballard Business Appellants, which successfully appealed the Determinations of Nonsignificance (DNS) issued by SDOT between 2008 and 2012 for the Project. *See e.g.*, the Findings and Decision of the Hearing Examiner, File W-12-002, issued August 27, 2012 (Hearing Examiner's Prior Decision).

I. INTRODUCTION

SDOT's FEIS for the Project again fails to comply with the policies and requirements of the State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA) and its implementing regulations, and fails to comply with the City of Seattle's (City's) SEPA policies. The FEIS also fails to comply with the Hearing Examiner's Prior Decision and with the March 2, 2012 Order of the King County Superior Court.

The Ballard Coalition respectfully requests that the Hearing Examiner find the FEIS inadequate as a matter of law, and order SDOT to prepare and issue a Draft and Final EIS that complies with the Hearing Examiner's Prior Decision, the Court's Order, and that addresses the many additional deficiencies set forth herein.

A. PARTIES

The members of the Ballard Coalition² are labor organizations, trade and business associations, or entities that own, operate or represent businesses and/or workers in Ballard, or own or lease properties in Ballard located adjacent to or in the vicinity of the Project that will be adversely affected by the Project, including:

- The Martin Luther King, Jr. County Labor Council of Washington, AFL-CIO, is a Washington non-profit corporation, whose address is 2800 First Avenue, Suite 206, Seattle, WA 98121, telephone 206.441.8510;
- 2. The Teamsters are a labor association, whose address is 14675 Interurban Ave. South, Suite 303, Tukwila, WA 98168, telephone 206.441.6060;

Additional labor, business and industrial groups and associations may join the Coalition on or before the prehearing conference to be held in this matter. In that case, the Coalition will provide an updated list.

- 3. Salmon Bay Sand & Gravel Co. is a Washington corporation, whose address is 5228 Shilshole Ave NW, Seattle, WA 98107, telephone 206.784.1234;
- 4. BNMIC is an unregistered non-profit trade association, whose address is 604 22nd Ave NW, Seattle, WA 98107-4027;
- 5. NSIA is a Washington non-profit corporation, whose address is 3500 1st Avenue West, Seattle, WA 98107, telephone 206.440.2660;
- 6. Ballard Terminal Railroad, L.L.C. is a Washington company, whose address is 4725 Ballard Avenue NW, Seattle WA 98107, telephone 206.782.1447;
- 7. CSR Marine is a Washington corporation, whose address is 4701 Shilshole Avenue NW, Seattle, WA 98107, telephone 206.632.2001; and
- 8. Seattle Marine Business Coalition is a Washington non-profit corporation, whose address is 2201 West Commodore Way, Seattle, WA 98199, telephone 206.285.1707.

Salmon Bay, Ballard Terminal Railroad, and CSR Marine are businesses located adjacent to or in the vicinity of the Project; are water-dependent or water-adjacent industrial uses, located on industrially zoned land; and have driveways, loading areas, railroad tracks or access that require truck and rail crossings across the Project, and/or require intermodal access including barge, rail, and truck. Each of these businesses would be adversely affected, resulting in immediate, concrete, and specific injury-in-fact if the Project proceeds as set forth in the FEIS.

The BINMIC is an unregistered non-profit trade association; NSIA is a business association of marine and industrial businesses and property owners; the SMBC represents the interests of 300 marine industrial land users within the Seattle City limits; the Labor Council is the central body of labor organizations in King County; and the Teamsters are an association representing the interests of workers including, but not limited to, heavy freight drivers, truck drivers, equipment operators, transit operators, and dock workers. For each of these organizations, one or more of its members' interests will be adversely affected, resulting in immediate, concrete, and specific injury-in-fact if the Project proceeds as set forth in the FEIS.

B. BALLARD BUSINESS APPELLANTS' LEGAL REPRESENTATIVES

The above named parties are represented in this matter by Joshua C. Allen Brower, Leah B. Silverthorn, and Danielle N. Granatt, Veris Law Group PLLC, Seattle, WA 98101, telephone (206) 829-9590, fax (206) 829-9245, email josh@verislawgroup.com, leah@verislawgroup.com, and danielle@verislawgroup.com; and Patrick J. Schneider, Foster Pepper PLLC, 1111 Third Avenue, Suite 3000, Seattle, WA 98101, telephone (206) 447-2905, fax (206) 749-1915, and email pat.schneider@foster.com.

II. ISSUES ON APPEAL

A. THE FEIS DISREGARDS PRIOR, BINDING ORDERS OF THE HEARING EXAMINER AND THE SUPERIOR COURT AND PROVIDES EVEN LESS ADEQUATE ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW OF SIGNIFICANT ADVERSE ENVIRONMENTASL IMPACTS THAN THE SEPA REVIEW THAT THE HEARING EXAMINER DETERMINED TO BE INADEQUATE IN THE HEARING EXAMINER'S PRIOR DECISION

Evaluation of this Project under SEPA began as early as 2008. The Ballard Business Appellants appealed, and in August 2012, after multiple rounds of appeals—before the Hearing Examiner, the King County Superior Court, and the Washington Court of Appeals, Div. I.—the Hearing Examiner ordered SDOT to prepare an EIS on the Shilshole Segment portion of the Project. *See* Hearing Examiner's Prior Decision at 9-10. In 2013, SDOT announced that it planned to prepare an EIS for the entire Project.

The Hearing Examiner's Prior Decision concluded that "the proposal would have significant adverse impacts in the form of traffic hazards along the Shilshole Segment because of conflicts between truck movements and the other vehicle traffic and trail users along the Segment." *Id.* The Hearing Examiner's Prior Decision was based upon a 20% - 30% level of Project design. In the FEIS, SDOT admits it based its entire SEPA evaluation for the Project "on designs at approximately 10% level of design for each of the build alternatives." SDOT further admits that the recently announced Preferred Alternative for the Project, which it did not select until the FEIS, is still at 10% design and includes a segment that was never included in any prior alternatives or SEPA evaluation.

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In its Second Order of Remand issued March 2, 2012, in Cause No. 09-2-26586-1 SEA (consolidated), the King County Superior Court determined that a 10% level of design was not sufficient to identify the adverse impacts of the Project under SEPA. The Court remanded the matter to SDOT "for the limited purpose of more fully designing the Shilshole Segment so that the impacts of the proposal on the adjoining land uses, and any proposed mitigation of those impacts, may be identified." The Superior Court retained jurisdiction over this matter, and another Department of the Superior Court retains such jurisdiction today, having recently rejected the City's attempt to dismiss appeal pending under consolidated Cause No. 09-2-26586-1 SEA.

The FEIS not only has been prepared in violation of the Superior Court's Second Order of Remand, the FEIS does not acknowledge or disclose the Project's probable significant adverse impacts that the Hearing Examiner, in her Prior Decision, determined to exist based upon SDOT's 20% - 30% level of design. Instead of disclosing these probable significant adverse environmental impacts, the FEIS vaguely asserts that adverse impacts that it does not identify with specificity will be mitigated when the Project is more fully designed in the future. The FEIS thus affirmatively conceals rather than discloses the Project's significant adverse environmental impacts that the Hearing Examiner's Prior Decision has already determined to exist.

In sum, the FEIS does not comply with the Hearing Examiner's Prior Decision or with the Court's Second Order of Remand. The FEIS conceals rather than discloses the Project's probable significant adverse environmental impacts that the Hearing Examiner has already determined will result from those portions of SDOT's Preferred Alternative that are similar to, if not exactly the same as, the prior routes analyzed in SDOT's previous SEPA reviews, all of which have been found to be deficient. The FEIS thus violates the very purpose of SEPA, which is to inform decision-makers, and violates multiple provisions of the SEPA Rules, including, but not limited to, SMC 25.05.400 and .440.

In addition, by concealing rather than disclosing the Project's probable significant adverse environmental impacts that the Hearing Examiner has already identified, the FEIS

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demonstrates that it violates the very purpose of an EIS, as set forth in SMC 25.05.400.B: The FEIS does not "provide an impartial discussion of significant environmental impacts" and does not "inform decision-makers and the public of reasonable alternatives." The FEIS violates this requirement because:

- SDOT continues to be both the project proponent/advocate and the SEPA lead agency;
- SDOT improperly failed to properly evaluate and analyze design alternatives, such as
 protected bicycle facilities or cycle tracks, along with locational alternatives for the
 Project, even though this issue was properly raised during Project Scoping and even
 though the City promised it would do so; and
- SDOT improperly and over-narrowly defined the "Project Objective," *see e.g.* Section 1.2 and remainder of FEIS, to be the completion of a "multi-use trail," thereby predetermining the outcome.

B. SDOT IMPROPERLY DESCRIBED THE PROPOSAL AS A PREFERRED SOLUTION, NOT AN OBJECTIVE, CONTRARY TO SEPA'S REQUIREMENTS

Under SEPA, "[p]roposals should be described in ways that encourage considering and comparing alternatives. Agencies are encouraged to describe public or nonproject proposals in terms of objectives rather than preferred solutions." SMC 25.05.060.C.1.c. SDOT describes its Project objective in the FEIS as the creation of a multi-use trail through the study area, but this "objective" is in fact a preferred solution that precludes the analysis of reasonable alternatives, e.g., the creation of protected bicycle lanes, including a cycle track facility on Leary Avenue. The FEIS thus violates SMC 25.05.060 and the many provisions of the SEPA rules, including SMC 25.05.400 and 440, that require an EIS to study reasonable alternatives, including alternative designs not just locational alternatives, to achieve the Project objective.

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C. SDOT **FAILED** TO **PUBLIC PROVIDE** NOTICE OF OR APPROPRIATELY **EVALUATE** NEW **SEGMENT** OF THE PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE—IT IS IMPROPERLY PIECEMEALING THE PROJECT, AGAIN.

The FEIS includes virtually no additional information in the description of each Alternative, with the exception of what SDOT incorrectly characterizes as "one minor route connection" in its Preferred Alternative, which in fact is an entirely new segment of the route that was never analyzed prior to the release of the FEIS. SEPA requires that the lead agency provide public notice of environmental review of a Project and that the public have the opportunity to comment on such Project. SMC 25.05.510 & 25.05.535. See also WAC 197-11-060 (requiring that the agency "make certain that the proposal that is the subject of environmental review is properly defined.") This new segment was not in any way included in the draft environmental impact statement, thus has never been analyzed or presented to the public for consideration or public comment as part of the Project.

D. SDOT FAILED TO ADEQUATELY STUDY TRAFFIC HAZARDS AND SAFETY

SEPA requires SDOT to evaluate the Project's safety and traffic hazards sufficient for a decisionmaker to evaluate alternatives. See, e.g. SMC 25.05.060.D; SMC 25.05.060; and SMC 25.05.444. The Project will create significant, unmitigated adverse traffic hazards. The Preferred Alternative will cross numerous industrial driveways (approximately 55) and roadways along its nearly mile-and-a-half stretch—or one driveway/roadway every 144 feet — in the middle of a heavily populated urban area where numerous businesses, that provide thousands of family-and union-wage jobs, are either directly adjacent to or in the immediate vicinity of the Project. The Project will be a recreational attraction for children and families but will have limited site distances and inherent safety issues. The Project will bring vulnerable users into direct conflict with industrial and maritime traffic and activities. The Project is in almost constant conflict with heavy trucks, a railroad, forklift traffic, maritime and industrial traffic and activities, loading docks, commercial parking, and busy arterial streets along its entire alignment.

It is very likely a trail user will get hurt or killed. SDOT's failures to evaluate safety and traffic hazards include, but are not limited to, the following:

- SDOT's AutoTURN analysis is incomplete and fails to adequately evaluate traffic hazards and safety;
- SDOT's AutoTURN analysis is incomplete because it is not based on an evaluation of the actual trucks/vehicles that use existing driveways;
- SDOT's traffic and safety evaluation relies on incomplete information about the nature and extent of the businesses and uses along the Project and is not based on any developed or accepted methodology;
- The FEIS improperly relies on future studies and outreach that have yet to occur and are undefined;
- The FEIS is incomplete and inadequate because SDOT is using an on-going process occurring after the FEIS was issued, its Design Advisory Committee (DAC), to a) conduct public outreach to impacted and affected businesses and property owners along the Preferred Alternative routes to obtain information that should have been included in the Draft and FEIS; b) further design the Preferred Alternative to 30%, 60%, 90% and 100%, which further design should have been performed before and included in the Draft and FEIS; and c) evaluate whether a multi-use trail such as the Preferred Alternative can be designed to operate safely in the selected location, which evaluation and information should have been included in the Draft and FEIS;
- The FEIS fails to adequately evaluate and/or confirm the Project's consistency with the: a) Washington state department of transportation (WSDOT) design manual (WSDOT Manual); b) SDOT's own right-of-way improvements manual (ROW Improvement Manual); c) WSDOT's city and county design standards for all Alternatives or design standards; d) the design standards contained in the AASHTO "guide for the development of bicycle facilities"; e) the design standards contained in the National Association of City Transportation Officials (NACTO) urban bikeway design guide; or f) the Federal Highway Administration (collectively, Design Standards).
- The Project as currently designed violates the Design Standards because the FEIS fails to confirm consistency with Design Standards, including, without limit, multi-user trail location, trail width, design speed; sight distances; crossing designs, intersection designs, and other standards articulated in and contained within the Design Standards;

- SDOT does not adequately apply and conform the Project to the Design Standards, which in turn causes, among other things, traffic hazards, obstacles, shy-distance violations, increased conflicts between motorized and non-motorized users, and dangerous sight distance concerns;
- The FEIS's failure to evaluate all traffic hazards and safety considerations renders it inadequate and constitutes impermissible piecemealing.

E. SDOT FAILED TO ADEQUATELY CONSIDER THE PROJECT'S CONSISTENCY WITH APPLICABLE LAND USE REGULATIONS

The Project as currently designed is incompatible with the City's 2035 Comprehensive Plan, adopted in November of 2016 (the Comprehensive Plan). The City of Seattle's SEPA statutes and regulations are codified at SMC 25.05 et seq. SMC 25.05.444.B.2.a requires that the EIS evaluate "Land Use", which is defined as the Project's "*relation to existing land use plan*." (emphasis added), i.e. the Comprehensive Plan.

This portion of Ballard—from 11th NW to the Ballard Locks—is a critical corridor and an integral part of the maritime and industrial business community in Seattle. A significant portion of the Preferred Alternative is designated a "Major Truck Street" in the Comprehensive Plan, prioritized for heavy freight movement. Likewise, the City's land use Policies and Goals in its Comprehensive Plan give special priority to water-dependent uses in this area; and these maritime and industrial uses receive the highest priority and protection from non-compatible and competing uses. Routing a recreational trail such as the Project through the heart of the maritime/industrial area ignores these Goals and Policies and will significantly and adversely impact the built-environmental and the Ballard Coalition. At a minimum, SDOT is required to conduct a balancing analysis to determine whether the Project is compatible with these Goals and Policies in the Comprehensive Plan, which it failed to do in the FEIS.

The FEIS does not adequately disclose or discuss the Project's inconsistencies with the goals and policies in the Comprehensive Plan and its attendant neighborhood plans including, but are not limited to, the following goals and policies:

AL-P32: BI-G1: BI-G2:

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1	BI-G4:	GS	1.17:	T-5.9:			
2	BI-G5:	GS	1.18:	LU-10.2:			
3	<i>B</i> 1-03.	GS	1.10.	20 10.2.			
4	BI-G6:	GS	1.20:	LU-10.3:			
5	BI-G8:	GS	1.21:	LU-10.11:			
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7	BI-G10:	ED-G2:		LU-10.16:			
8	BI-G11:	TG-1:		LU-10.26:			
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11	BI-P3:	T-6.1:		T 2.5:			
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13	BI-P5:	T-6.4:		LU-G10:			
14 15	BI-P5:	T-6.5:		SA-P40:			
16	BI-P11:	T-6.8:		SA-P1:			
17	22.2.2.1						
18	BI-P14:	T-8.2:		SA-G8:			
19	BI-P15: BI-P21:			SA-G18:			
20				SA-G33:			
21				SA-P76:			
22	In addition, the FEIS failed to include and consider, or dismissed with no evaluation.						
23	actual impacts on certain existing and future businesses, freight, rail, and other uses, and						
24	locations and configurations. The FEIS failed to obtain and rely on adequate, correct and						
25	veris Law Group PLLC						
26	NOTICE OF APPEAL)	1809 Seventh Ave, Suite 1400 Seattle, Washington 98101 TEL 206.829.9590			
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affected by the Project, and in fact admits the Draft EIS contained numerous material errors and omissions regarding existing land uses and businesses that will be impacted and affected by the Project. The FEIS is thus insufficient to analyze appropriate SEPA elements of the environment.

The FEIS also does not adequately disclose or discuss the Project's inconsistencies with the goals and policies in the following plans and policies:

- The Crown Hill/Ballard Neighborhood Plan, which does not apply to the Project Area;
- Ballard-Interbay Northend Manufacturing and Industrial Center (BINMIC)
 Neighborhood Plan, which specifically states the Project should not be located in the BINMIC area;
- The City of Seattle Ballard Urban Design and Transportation Framework Final Report (City of Seattle, 2016a);
- The Seattle Move Ballard Draft Plan (SDOT, 2016b);
- The City of Seattle Freight Master Plan (SDOT, 2016a); and
- The Shoreline Master Program Code (SMC 23.60A).

F. SDOT FAILED TO ADEQUATELY STUDY PARKING IMPACTS

SDOT failed to adequately obtain information and analyze parking impacts from the Project, including but not limited to its use of unsupported inferences and assumptions, its flawed and insufficient Traffic Study, and a failure to evaluate actual conditions and uses of parking in the vicinity of the Project. The FEIS makes incorrect and unsupported assumptions and conclusions regarding the impact of removing parking within the Project area. The Coalition will be adversely impacted by the Project's elimination of parking spaces.

G. SDOT FAILED TO ADEQUATELY EVALUATE CUMULATIVE IMPACTS

SDOT failed to accurately, adequately, or reasonably describe and consider the cumulative effects of the Project as required by SEPA. SEPA acknowledges that a project or action may create undue impacts when combined with the cumulative effects of prior or

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simultaneous developments and requires a reasonable assessment of certain factors in determining whether the project or action may be conditioned or denied to lessen or eliminate its cumulative effects on the environment. *See* SMC 25.05.670; *see also* SMC 25.05.792. SDOT woefully failed to adequately or reasonably assess the cumulative impacts that may result from the Project, including but not limited to, the cumulative impact caused by the Project in conjunction with other planned or anticipated projects in the vicinity of the Project, including, without limit, Seattle Public Utilities' Combined Sewer Outflow (CSO) project. SPU is under a Consent Decree to complete the CSO project by 2025. A portion of the CSO project will be located exactly where SDOT plans to construct nearly one-third (1/3) of the Preferred Alternative. SDOT will either have to wait until after SPU constructs the CSO project or, if SDOT goes first, SPU will tear out nearly one-third of the Project and SDOT will have to rebuild and replace it. None of this is disclosed or discussed in the FEIS.

H. SDOT FAILED TO STUDY THE PROJECT'S IMPACT ON THE SHORELINE ENVIRONMENT

At least two portions of the Preferred Alternative are located within the City's designated Shoreline Environment. Despite this, the FEIS claims that the Project is exempt from obtaining a Shoreline Substantial Development permit because ""reconfiguring the existing right-of-way for the Missing Link would be allowed within the shoreline district under the SMP." SDOT is violating SEPA by: a) falsely asserting that it is proposing to repair and replace an existing development instead of building a brand new multi-user trail/Project where one has not previously existed; b) failing to analyze or disclose the true effect of the Project on the Shoreline Environment or conformity to the City's Shoreline Master Program; c) failing to properly and adequately disclose and analyze the Project's relationship to and conformity to the City's Shoreline Master Plan and Program, all as required by SEPA. *See e.g.*, SMC 25.05.444. SDOT is misrepresenting the scope and nature of the Project within the Shoreline Environment, and thus its SEPA analysis is fatally flawed and inadequate because the FEIS violates SEPA's policies and requirements, and its implementing policies regulations, including the City's Shoreline policies.

NOTICE OF APPEAL [CORRECTED]

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VI. RESERVATION OF RIGHTS The Ballard Coalition reserve the right to amend this Notice of Appeal to state additional challenges to the adequacy of the FEIS relating to the impacts and mitigation of the Project and reasonable alternatives to the Project. VI. RELIEF REQUESTED The Ballard Coalition respectfully requests that the Hearing Examiner find and determine the FEIS to be inadequate and order SDOT to prepare a new draft and final EIS that properly and completely analyzes the probable significant adverse environmental impacts of the Project and that addresses the many deficiencies set forth herein. DATED this 8th day of June 2017. VERIS LAW GROUP PLLC and FOSTER PEPPER PLLC

Patrick J. Schneider, WSBA No. 11957 Joshua C. Allen Brower, WSBA No. 25092 Leah B. Silverthorn, WSBA No. 51730 Danielle Granatt, WSBA No. 44182 Attorneys for the Ballard Coalition

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