

HSD Public testimony (verbal) | DRAFT

I'm MaryKate Ryan, community preservation associate at Historic South Downtown.

After five years of study, community input and refinement, it is clear that a station on 4th Ave S. delivers the greatest benefit to the CID and Pioneer Square communities. It offers convenient and efficient regional connectivity and helps us realize our vision for a vibrant and connected transit hub.

We are asking you today to recommend moving 4th forward as the preferred alternative, or at least moving both remaining options forward for equal efforts at continued study.

We know infrastructure projects of this magnitude are disruptive. But simply avoiding disruption is not a sufficient reason to skip over the CID. This neighborhood has borne a disproportionate burden from past projects but has not seen the positive investments or the community benefits long promised by our elected officials.

Now is your chance to do things differently. Our community is willing to endure the construction at 4th Ave S. to realize our vision for a connected and vibrant neighborhood. The short-term pain is outweighed by the generational benefit of a station that is accessible and activated.

No one on this committee or on the broader Sound Transit Board has articulated the positive benefits that the north/south option will deliver to our region. What is your commitment to ensuring a vibrant, thriving CID? How will Sound Transit, King County and the City of Seattle lay out a credible plan together that will leave our community better for decades to come?

Until you can answer these questions with courage and confidence, you cannot sensibly select the north/south option as the preferred alternative.