

From: [Robin Lombard](#)
To: [City Council](#)
Subject: May 2 Comment Letter
Date: Sunday, May 01, 2016 6:07:44 PM
Attachments: [CouncilLetterMay1.16.docx](#)

Members of the Shoreline City Council,

I want to give you my perspective on communication from the City to citizens about this process we're going through.

The email alerts the City sends out are a real opportunity to help people understand various aspects of the rezone process. After all, the recipients signed up to receive these mails. One recent email alert simply said Public Hearing, May 5. Agenda highlights: Public Hearing on Development Code Amendments Related to Light Rail System and Facilities Permitting Process. This email also had links to the agenda packet, the planning commission web page, etc. All good. What the email alert doesn't say is why there is a public hearing. What specific decisions are being made that require notice of a public hearing? How might public comment make a difference? What are the implications of any decisions to affected homeowners?

When I followed the link to the agenda, and followed the link in the agenda to the Public Hearing item, I read through the pages of text. I determined that the public hearing is about feedback Sound Transit provided on Ordinance 741, most importantly about trees: criteria for retaining, removing and replacing them as part of building a light rail station. If the email had included this information – that the public hearing includes feedback from Sound Transit on what they can and can't do as regards trees, I would better be able to make a decision about whether or not I need to provide a comment or attend the meeting. As the email stands, I simply don't have the context to know what the public hearing is all about.

I noticed that the agenda for this meeting also included a Study item - Development Code Amendments related to Light Rail Station Subareas. I wondered what that meant. I found the study item document in the full agenda. It looks like a proposal for a minimum density in MUR-35 zones, a proposal for minimum lot size for MUR-70 development and minimum setbacks for 185th and 145th streets. Wow, those might be important...I might want to comment on those. If that short list of items had been added to the email alert, I could have used that information to decide whether or not to attend.

Many citizens aren't going to spend time digging for information and will miss important meetings and opportunities to provide feedback. It's important to remember that we need more context than City Council members, City staff, and Planning Commission members. We need to know why specific meetings are relevant to us.

I believe a City Council member once said that light rail is the opportunity of a lifetime to re-make parts of the city. All these re-zone decisions are decisions that affect the future of hundreds of families. Please...bring the citizens along with you on this journey by providing more clear information about what is going on and why it is important to us, especially this summer when lots of decisions are being made that will affect us for years to come.

Respectfully,

Robin Lombard (Shoreline resident)

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May 1, 2016

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