RESOLUTION NO. 2012-07

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF LYNNWOOD, WASHINGTON, REGARDING ISSUES CONCERNING THE POTENTIAL SITING BY SOUND TRANSIT OF AN OPERATIONS AND MAINTENANCE SATELLITE FACILITY (OMSF) WITHIN THE CITY ON 52ND AVENUE WEST AND A REQUEST TO THE SOUND TRANSIT BOARD TO ELIMINATE THAT SITE FROM FURTHER CONSIDERATION DUE TO ITS SEVERE IMPACTS ON THE CITY, COMMUNITY AND EDMONDS SCHOOL DISTRICT

WHEREAS, Sound Transit staff has identified five (5) potential sites for an Operations and Maintenance Satellite Facility (OMSF), of which one potential site is located in the City of Lynnwood on a site adjacent to 52nd Ave./Cedar Valley Road at 204th Street SW; and

WHEREAS, this Lynnwood site consists of several parcels of land, the largest of which is owned by the Edmonds School District (District); and

WHEREAS, the District after a multi-year effort in 2004-2005 working with their citizens capital project committee and all affected stakeholders in the community, was successful in gaining funding for their capital plan from an overwhelmingly approved voted real property tax levy in 2006 to pay for necessary large scale, multi-stage school district capital projects improvement plans affecting many different schools, facilities, and surplus sites around the District, which includes: building a combined District Support Center (DSC) comprised of an administrative headquarters, warehouse and maintenance / transportation facility on this potential Sound Transit site, and has spent literally millions of dollars of public funds and substantial time and efforts to accomplish the voter approved plan including the acquisition of the property affected, obtaining various plan and project approvals from the City of Lynnwood, and preparing construction plans, documents, etc.; and
WHEREAS, the District’s development plans specifically incorporate the placement and positioning of their new office building at the DSC to shield and screen internal views of the site from an established adjoining single family neighborhood; and

WHEREAS, the District’s plans are financially, sequentially, and organizationally linked to multiple District sites in and around the City of Lynnwood that would be redeveloped to provide long-term revenue streams for the construction, maintenance, improvement and operations of critical school district capital facilities, and

WHEREAS financially, sequentially, and organizationally, both the District and the City of Lynnwood would each be severely disrupted, if construction of the DSC campus is not allowed to proceed as planned; and

WHEREAS, the proposed OMSF site is located directly across the street from an established single family neighborhood containing hundreds of affordable homes and is in close proximity to several affordable housing apartments and condominium complexes, all of which would be adversely impacted by light, noise, property values, and other impacts related to the industrial nature of the OMSF facility; and

WHEREAS, the selection of an OMSF site that directly impacts hundreds of affordable homes when there are other sites available, raises social justice issues; and

WHEREAS, the proposed OMSF site is located in the City of Lynnwood in proximity to an already designated Puget Sound Regional Council (PSRC) Urban Center and directly, negatively impacting development of that area; and

WHEREAS, the proposed OMSF site is located in very close proximity to the Lynnwood City Center and the Lynnwood Transit Center which are already designated and planned to be the location for mixed-use, transit oriented development (TOD) development to meet county and regional Growth Management Targets for increased residential population, and where planned future TOD development would be adversely impacted by proximity to such a heavy industrial facility; and

WHEREAS, the Lynnwood Link Light Rail Transit (LRT) project is planned to use federal New Starts funding and that program requires TOD supportive policies (“49 U.S.C. §5309(d)
requires that projects proposed for New Starts funding be justified based, in part, on a comprehensive review of Transit Supportive Land Use Policies and Future Patterns [http://www.fta.dot.gov/12347_6935.html] and as the proposed OMSF facility would adversely impact hundreds of affordable homes proximate to the planned future LRT station as well as directly impacting the TOD potential of the station area itself, selection of the Lynnwood site is inconsistent with the New Starts program; and

WHEREAS, the proposed OMSF site is located adjacent to significant city recreational resources of Scriber Creek and associated wetlands, and the city’s Scriber Creek Park, that provide places to experience nature in close proximity to Lynnwood’s City Center and regional Interurban Trail, both of which would be negatively impacted by the presence of such a heavy industrial use; and

WHEREAS, the proposed Sound Transit OMSF facility would directly impact through filling and indirectly impact through siting of buildings, facilities, and its operations the adjacent wetland complex that contains Scriber Creek which is listed as a salmonids bearing waterway; and

WHEREAS, the City has already experienced and corrected substantial upstream flooding in the Scriber Creek drainage basin which likely would be exacerbated by any loss of flood storage capacity;

NOW, THEREFORE, THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF LYNNWOOD DOES HEREBY RESOLVE AND REQUEST the Sound Transit Board to remove from its potential sites and evaluations list the Lynnwood 52nd Avenue West/Cedar Walley Road site for a South Transit Operations and Maintenance Satellite Facility and the such site not be included in any environmental analysis, due to its many significant and unresolveable and irreparable impacts upon the City of Lynnwood, its residents and businesses and upon the Edmonds School District.

RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF LYNNWOOD, WASHINGTON, this 22nd day of October, 2012.
CITY OF LYNNWOOD

Don Gough, Mayor

ATTEST:

Lorenzo Hines Jr., Finance Director