Dear Mayor Durkan and Council President Harrell,

Rainier Avenue is infamous for being one of Seattle’s most dangerous streets. (See here and here.) The City did a good thing when it implemented phase 1 of the Rainier Corridor Safety Project. Along that stretch (from Alaska to Orcas), Rainier became significantly safer for people who walk, bike, drive, take transit, and patronize local businesses. (See here.) But phase 2 of the Rainier Corridor Safety Project has been delayed four years. We are writing to urge you to delay no longer, and implement phase 2 now.

Seattle cannot meet its safety, mobility, public health, or equity goals without fixing Rainier Ave. Rainier Ave is the most dangerous street in Seattle, and piecemeal measures that were implemented over the years failed to make a dramatic improvement — we cannot reach Seattle’s goal of zero traffic fatalities and serious injuries without fixing our most dangerous street. We simply must get people out of cars and onto sidewalks and bikes and buses on all our major city transportation corridors, including Rainier. Phase 2 of the Safety project will make the street safer and more appealing for everyone and keep the #7 bus, a lifeline for many, moving reliably. This is also an important step toward delivering the safety and mobility promises made to SE Seattle voters with the Move Seattle Levy. South Seattle has some of the city’s worst air pollution, with high rates of childhood asthma. The clear guidance from the International Panel on Climate Change is that we must reduce greenhouse gases drastically now to avoid climate catastrophe. Getting more people onto sidewalks, bikes, and buses will help reduce air pollution from car exhaust and greenhouse gas emissions. It will also improve the civic life and the public health of our communities.

We stand with the Rainier Beach Action Coalition, Rainier Beach Merchants Association, Rainier Valley Greenways, Rainier Valley Chamber of Commerce, BikeWorks, and South Seattle residents who are urging the City to implement phase 2 without delay.

Please act now.

Sincerely,

Move All Seattle Sustainably Coalition
350 Seattle
500 Women Scientists Seattle
Cascade Bicycle Club
Disability Rights Washington
Rooted in Rights
Seattle Neighborhood Greenways
Seattle Subway
Seattle Transit Blog
Sierra Club Seattle Group
The Urbanist
Transit Riders Union

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