FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FROM: The Seattle Streetcar Coalition
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Seattle Streetcar Coalition Commends Mayor for Moving the Center City Connector Project Forward

Seattle, WA – The Seattle Streetcar Coalition (SSC) commends Mayor Jenny Durkan for her leadership on transportation and her commitment to delivering the critical next piece of Seattle’s streetcar system. As an alliance of local businesses, community groups and nonprofits, the Coalition supports the Mayor’s efforts to build this vital piece of infrastructure for the city. The Streetcar review has provided a full picture of the project, allowing for the Mayor and Council to move forward and ensure adequate resources are identified to complete this much needed transportation option.

When complete, the Seattle Streetcar network will span five miles with 23 stations throughout the center city. Streetcar passengers will be able to access Pike Place Market, Colman Dock and Pioneer Square along with 12 neighborhoods between South Lake Union, First Hill, Capitol Hill and the Chinatown-International District. Additionally, the connected streetcar line will provide service to over 8,000 new units of affordable housing going in by 2025.

“Communities like Pioneer Square have seen the promise of this connected streetcar system for years,” said Aaron Barthel, owner of Intrigue Chocolates. “I’m pleased the Mayor is getting the project back on track. I love having the First Hill Streetcar in front of my business and look forward to receiving new visitors from South Lake Union and the Pike Place Market.”

Formed more than a decade ago, the SSC is working to realize a city-wide streetcar network that will deliver efficient and environmentally sustainable transportation for Seattle’s growing population. The completion of the Center City Connector is the next step in realizing this network and will serve the fastest-growing areas of our city with the only high-capacity transit investment scheduled to come online before 2035.

“I have advocated for the Center City Connector since the concept was first introduced. As a business owner along the alignment, I’ve maintained my excitement and optimism that I would soon see streetcars gliding past my business bringing residents and visitors with them,” said Pike Brewing Company founder and owner Charles Finkel. “I am thrilled that this project will once again move forward, and we will realize the vision of streetcars on First Avenue. I’m looking forward to continuing to work with the city as we move forward.”

“We are very happy that the promises made during construction in the CID are being honored,” said Maiko Winkler-Chin, executive director of the Seattle Chinatown International Preservation and Development Authority (SCIDpda). “Our community was told our pain and suffering during the
construction phase would be worth it because we’d have a connected system to benefit our residents and businesses. With the First Avenue line, we will have a connected, functioning system and this community will actually see the promised benefits.”

The Mayor’s announcement comes on the heels of the viaduct closure and at a time when people are looking to high-capacity alternatives for getting around the city. The SSC stands ready to support the Mayor and Seattle Department of Transportation as they refine the streetcar plans and seek additional funding. We look forward to working with the Seattle City Council to see this project swiftly completed and our communities connected to keep pace with the growth and opportunity in front of us.

**About Seattle Streetcar Coalition**

The Seattle Streetcar Coalition is a growing group of civic and business leaders who care about an integrated transportation system. We are committed to realizing a complete streetcar network as an important component of a high-capacity transportation system.

For more information, visit: [https://letsgostreetcar.org/](https://letsgostreetcar.org/)

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