

### Agency Activities and Monitored Issues

#### First quarter 2008 ridership up 15 percent

Sound Transit's first quarter 2008 ridership for ST Express regional bus, Sounder commuter rail and Tacoma Link light rail, was nearly 3.6 million passenger boardings, up 15 percent over first quarter 2007. System-wide, the average weekday boardings reached 50,368 in the first quarter of this year. ST Express bus ridership was up 13 percent in the first quarter, Sounder commuter rail service up 28 percent and Tacoma Link up 1 percent.

#### Mukilteo Sounder Station opens

On Saturday, May 31, the Mukilteo Sounder Station celebrated its grand opening by welcoming a Sounder train carrying baseball fans to King Street Station for the Mariners game. That following Monday, June 2, regular service began from Mukilteo with three round trips every weekday. Ridership at the new station is even better than projected.

#### Light rail car rolls down the tracks

In June, a light rail car, for the first time ever, rolled 11 miles down the line's southbound tracks. The train car was pushed by a special truck to test the track, train car and the light rail stations. The car went through the Beacon Hill Tunnel, the Rainier Valley, over bridges spanning I-5 and the Duwamish River and then all the way to the Tukwila International Blvd Station. Additional testing, including running the trains on their own power, will begin this summer in the Rainier Valley and later in Tukwila.

A week later, after the Downtown Seattle Transit Tunnel was closed for the weekend, Sound Transit successfully ran light rail trains and buses together for the first time in the tunnel. The test was necessary to make sure the tunnel's signal system works properly. The test showed that the system works very well and trains and buses can both safely occupy the tunnel.

#### Everett Station improvements groundbreaking

In early June, Sound Transit broke ground on improvements to the Everett Station, which is served by Sounder trains along with ST Express, Community Transit and Everett Transit buses. Sound Transit is adding 440 parking stalls on the east side of the existing tracks, building a weather protected pedestrian bridge over the tracks that connect the new parking lot to the commuter rail platform and completing an unfinished parking area on the west side of the tracks. The project features several pedestrian improvements, including a plaza between the commuter rail platform and street. A bus layover area, landscaping and public art are also part of the project.

The projects should be completed in spring 2009.

#### Issaquah Transit Center bus service starts

Sound Transit and King County Metro Transit kicked off bus



May. In addition, the new 900-stall parking garage at the Issaquah Transit Center will be open this summer. Interim parking lots remain open until the garage is ready for commuter use.

#### Tenth consecutive clean financial audit

Independent auditors gave Sound Transit a clean, unqualified report on the agency's financial health for the 10th year in a row. The 2007 independent annual financial audit, conducted by KPMG LLP, found no reportable conditions or material weaknesses involving internal control, and no instances of non-compliance required to be reported under Government Auditing Standards. The agency complied in all material respects required by the major federal programs that provide funding for Sound Transit's capital programs and in its accounting for subarea equity. Independent audits of Sound Transit's financial statements have been conducted annually since 1998.

#### Sounder trains outfitted with fuel saving system

The Sound Transit Board approved the purchase of equipment for Sounder locomotives that will not only save fuel, but will benefit the environment as well.

## Agency Activities and Monitored Issues *continued . . .*

The equipment automatically shuts down a locomotive's engine when it's idling for long periods of time. The system, through Rail Systems, Inc., also automatically starts the engine when necessary.

Because engine idling will be reduced by an estimated 34 percent, the system is expected to cut a total of more than 1.8 million pounds of carbon dioxide emissions a year from the agency's fleet of Sounder locomotives. It will also provide significant fuel savings and reduce noise pollution where the locomotives are stored at night. The Puget Sound Clean Air Agency designated a \$100,000 grant toward the \$230,596 purchase of equipment.

### **Sound Transit 2 public involvement effort**

In May, Sound Transit kicked off a major public involvement effort, including seven open houses, to encourage comment on potential Sound Transit 2 options for expanding the regional mass transit system. A postcard announcing the outreach opportunities was mailed to all houses in the Sound Transit District and a questionnaire was avail-



### **Station agents arrive at Sounder stations**

Starting in April, Sound Transit added station agents to its Sounder stations. The agents bring additional customer service to the train stations on weekdays and on weekends during special event service. This is the first program of its type in the region. Among other things, the station agents assist customers with purchasing tickets, using the ticket vending machines and helping with other commuting needs. Sound Transit Security guards still patrol all Sounder stations.