

MOTION NO. M2011-40

A motion of the Board of the Central Puget Sound Regional Transit Authority directing the chief executive officer to implement a Sustainability Plan and continue integrating sustainable business practices and strategies throughout the Sound Transit organization.

BACKGROUND:

The environment is increasingly threatened due to diminishing natural resources and the impact of global warming. Sustainability means maintaining adequate habitat and resources to meet present and future generations. In 2004, the Board adopted an Environmental Policy (Resolution No. R2004-06), and Sound Transit was one of first transit agencies to develop and implement an Environmental Management System (EMS). The Agency subsequently received ISO 14001-certification for meeting international environmental management standards.

In 2007, the Board adopted Resolution No. R2007-12 authorizing the chief executive officer to establish a Sound Transit Sustainability Initiative and periodically report progress to the Board. The resolution directed the integration of sustainable business practices and strategies throughout the Agency. The resolution also directed the CEO to develop a sustainability initiative that addresses petroleum conservation, alternative fuels, and renewable energy; energy efficiency; greenhouse gas emissions; water conservation; toxics reduction; procurement; waste prevention, re-use and recycling; building and facility performance; and land use. Pursuant to Resolution No. R2007-12, the chief executive officer issued Executive Order No. 1 directing staff to implement the Sustainability Initiative.

Substantial progress has been made since the adoption of the Sustainability Initiative. The Agency achieved more than one hundred sustainability targets between 2007 and 2010. Those achievements have significantly reduced the use of energy, fuel and paper use while increasing recycling and reducing the amount of waste produced. Additional information on resource savings is included in the annual sustainability progress reports that are annually provided to the Board and public.

Staff has developed a Sustainability Plan that reflects the principle that sustainability involves a healthy economy and society as well as a healthy environment. The Sustainability Plan builds upon the intent of the Sustainability Initiative and the work completed to date in order to provide further guidance to staff. The plan was developed with consideration of the policies, programs, and plans of partner jurisdictions and other progressive transit agencies. It describes efforts to date, establishes long-term priorities, and next steps for near term implementation to serve as a roadmap for continual improvement. The plan outlines future sustainability planning and funding; and implements sustainability efforts in nine priority areas. The plan applies to all planning, design, construction and operations activities under Sound Transit's operational or organizational control. The Sustainability Plan was finalized in May of 2011, but is a working document.

MOTION:

It is hereby moved by the Board of the Central Puget Sound Regional Transit Authority that the chief executive officer is directed to implement a Sustainability Plan and continue integrating sustainable business practices and strategies throughout the Sound Transit organization.

APPROVED by the Board of the Central Puget Sound Regional Transit Authority at a regular meeting thereof held on July 28, 2011.



Aaron Reardon
Board Chair

ATTEST:



Marcia Walker
Board Administrator