

MOTION NO. M2011-52
Agreements with the City of Tacoma for the Tacoma Link Station Proposed by the City

MEETING:	DATE:	TYPE OF ACTION:	STAFF CONTACT:
Operations and Administration Committee	06/16/11	Recommendation to Board	Ahmad Fazel, DECM Executive Director
Board	06/23/11	Cancelled	Barry Alavi, Project manager
Board	07/28/11	Final Action	

PROPOSED ACTION

Authorizes the chief executive officer to both execute an Operating Agreement and amend the Right of Use Agreement with the City of Tacoma to add a Tacoma Link station located between the Convention Center Station and the Theatre District Station.

KEY FEATURES

- In September 2010, the Sound Transit Board authorized staff to negotiate a term sheet with the City of Tacoma for a proposed station on the Tacoma Link route between the Convention Center Station and the Theatre District Station.
- The Operating Agreement incorporates the requirements of the term sheet and stipulates that:
 - The City will bear all costs for design, construction, and maintenance of the station including any necessary safety mitigation measures or modifications required for compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).
 - The City is required to reimburse Sound Transit for the pro rata costs associated with the operations and maintenance of the Tacoma Link Stations.
 - The City will complete all necessary environmental documentation and permitting at its own cost.
 - The City will retain ownership of the station improvements and assume liability for the design of the station.
 - Sound Transit will maintain the stations and will receive reimbursement for the cost of maintenance from the City.
- The amendment to the existing Right of Use Agreement changes 10-minute headways to 12-minute headways because of the extra time needed to serve an additional station.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Tacoma Link is a 1.6-mile light rail line located in downtown Tacoma. The line was completed in 2003 and serves the downtown area. The line primarily serves commuters between the Tacoma Dome Station and the downtown core. It also serves major destinations with the five existing stations, Tacoma Dome Station, S. 25th Street Station, Union Station, Convention Center Station, and Theater District Station.

FISCAL INFORMATION

The City of Tacoma has underwritten all of the expenses for the construction of the Commerce Street Station. However, there have been some nominal staff expenses such as site inspections that Sound Transit did incur. Under the Operating Agreement between Sound Transit and the City

of Tacoma Sound Transit will maintain the Commerce Street Facility and be fully reimbursed by the City of Tacoma for an estimated cost of \$8,612 annually. The impact to the Adopted 2011 Budget is small and requires no budget amendment.

SMALL BUSINESS PARTICIPATION

Not applicable to this action.

EQUAL EMPLOYMENT WORKFORCE PROFILE

Not applicable to this action.

BACKGROUND

In 2010, the City of Tacoma proposed adding a Tacoma Link station north of Convention Center Station at the intersection of Commerce Street and South 11th Street to expand access to businesses, increase ridership, and improve mobility in downtown Tacoma. This station will be constructed and maintained by the City of Tacoma. The City's proposed station includes two 40-foot offset platforms and will accommodate one-car trains. The additional stop on the Tacoma Link system will increase headways by two to four minutes; as a result the number of daily trips will be reduced.

The Operating Agreement and the amendment to the Right of Use Agreement meet the conditions of the term sheet. The amendment to the Right of Use Agreement reflects longer train headway limitations that are necessary to accommodate stopping at the new station. The operating agreement provides for the City's reimbursement of pro rata costs associated with the operations and maintenance of the Tacoma Link Stations.

ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE

JI 6/13/2011

PRIOR BOARD/COMMITTEE ACTIONS

Motion No. M2010-90 – Authorized Sound Transit staff to negotiate a Term Sheet with the City of Tacoma, for final approval by the Sound Transit Board, for a proposed station on the Tacoma Link route between the Convention Center Station and the Theatre District Station.

TIME CONSTRAINTS

A one month delay would delay the start of service to the station located at Commerce Street and South 11th Street.

PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

Outreach efforts were coordinated by the City of Tacoma. The City sent a postcard mailer to businesses within a quarter mile radius of the project explaining the work that would be taking place, and information about where to get more information. The City also conducted door to door outreach with businesses adjacent to the construction area.

LEGAL REVIEW

JW 6/14/11