

Sound Transit Citizen Oversight Panel Virtual Meeting Summary January 6, 2021

COP Members Present: Fred Auch, Brett Johnson, Scott Lampe, Dan Parker, Helen Powell, Bill Roach, Larry Sauvé, Joe Scorcio, Paul Thompson

COP Members Absent: James Peyton, Daniel Santon

Others Present: Kathy Albert, Katie Flores, Adam Montee, Taylor Wilkinson

COP Discussion

Scott Lampe and Larry Sauvé led a discussion of COP business including a review of the 2020 focus areas, the year-end report, and the annual retreat, which is scheduled to be held virtually on February 3, 2021, from 8:30 AM to 12:00 PM. Kent Keel, Board Chair, and Peter Rogoff, CEO, are expected to participate in the retreat.

Puyallup Station Parking and Access Improvements

- Jon Mikhels, Project Director
- Ken Lee, Project Manager

Jon Mikhels and Ken Lee discussed a series of ST2 improvement projects in the City of Puyallup (the City) designed to improve reliable access and meet increased demand at the Sounder station. The project includes a new, five story parking garage, pedestrian bridge, intersection upgrades, surface parking and non-motorized improvements.

Notice to Proceed on the \$46 million design build contract was issued in March 2020. The project is expected to open for service in the first quarter of 2022. The proposed baseline budget of \$79.1 million in year of expenditure dollars is four percent higher than the Transportation Improvement Plan estimate. An online open house held November 16 through December 3, 2020, drew 2,800 visitors to view design renderings and access information about construction impacts.

Overall, the project will add 1,260 total new stalls of parking, 511 in a new, five story garage, and 164 in a surface lot. The current stall count is 585, at surface lots within the station area and at the Fairgrounds. About 44 percent of riders arrive at Sounder stations in cars, 31 percent of them in single occupant vehicles, consistent with the typically higher number of riders who drive to commuter rail stations compared to light rail stations.

The parking garage will include a unique piece of art designed by Shaun Peterson, the first public art installation by a Puyallup tribal artist in the City. The project was funded through Sound Transit's ST art program, and chosen by a selection panel of community representatives who recommended native artwork in order to more fully reflect tribal presence and culture.

The City, through a development agreement with Sound Transit, designed and constructed \$3.8 million of access improvements including street lighting, curb ramps, bike lanes, and pedestrian crossing improvements. In addition, the City received \$154,000 for other transit and bike lane improvements through Sound Transit's System Access Fund.

Discussion

Puyallup Station – COP members discussed several aspects of the Puyallup Station parking and access improvements. More specific information about the cost of structured parking and surface parking stalls was requested. There is a widely recognized philosophical debate concerning parking access and transit. It was noted that the new stalls will not add additional parking, but instead concentrate parking that now occurs in side streets and residential areas in one designated place, to the benefit of the community as well as the riders. Members commended the commissioning of tribal artwork for the parking garage.

The summary of the December 16, 2020, COP meeting was approved.

Member Reports

Bill Roach reported that he had received the Covid-19 vaccine.

2020 Focus Areas

- Adequacy and appropriateness of station access, including use of emerging technologies
- Monitoring and review of social equity, racial equity, fare enforcement, and inclusion policies
- Uses of peer comparison data
- Asset management plan progress
- Reliability and availability of federal, state, local, and third party funding sources
- Customer experience focused metrics across the RTA region and transit agencies within it
- Covid-19, contingency planning, and disaster preparedness
- Program realignment, interagency cooperation and interoperability

Outstanding Questions

- 1) How is real time service information developed and coordinated with Sound Transit's partners?
- 2) What is the cost of a structured parking stall versus a surface parking stall?

Next Virtual Meeting: Wednesday, January 20, 2021, 8:30 – 11:00 AM

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