Regional Transit Long-Range Plan Update

Final Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement

November 2014

SOUNDTRANSIT

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November 26, 2014

Dear Recipient:

Sound Transit (the Central Puget Sound Regional Transit Authority) has prepared this Final Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (Final SEIS) on the Regional Transit Long-Range Plan Update. The Final SEIS supplements and builds on the 1993 *Regional Transit System Plan Final EIS*, and the 2005 *Regional Transit System Long-Range Plan Final SEIS*.

The Long-Range Plan outlines the agency's vision for high-capacity transit in the urban areas of Snohomish, King, and Pierce Counties. As these areas continue to grow, Sound Transit is looking at regional transit needs well into the future.

This Final SEIS has been prepared pursuant to the State Environmental Policy Act (Ch. 43.21C RCW), and it supports Sound Transit's current planning and decision-making efforts for an updated Regional Transit Long-Range Plan and a future system plan. A future system plan would build on investments included in the existing system plan known as Sound Transit 2 (ST2). As part of a "phased" environmental review process, this Final SEIS is a plan-level (rather than a project-level) EIS. Accordingly, alternatives are defined and environmental impacts are evaluated broadly. More detailed project-specific environmental review would occur in the future for those projects that are implemented as part of a future system plan.

The Final SEIS evaluates two alternatives: the "Current Plan Alternative" and the "Potential Plan Modifications Alternative". The Current Plan Alternative consists of the current 2005 Long-Range Plan plus subsequent Sound Transit Board actions implementing the plan as part of ST2. The Potential Plan Modifications Alternative includes a wide range of options for modifying the plan (including new transit corridors and services) based on the input provided during scoping and the Draft SEIS comment period. The Final SEIS evaluates the potential environmental effects of implementing the alternatives and discusses potential measures for mitigating impacts. The Sound Transit Board will consider the Final EIS and other information before updating the Regional Transit Long-Range Plan, which will serve as the basis for a future system plan.

The Draft SEIS on the Long-Range Plan Update was issued on June 13, 2014 for a 45-day public review and comment period. During that time, Sound Transit received over 560 letters, emails, comment forms, and oral testimonies given during public hearings. Appendix L of this Final SEIS contains all comments received on the Draft SEIS and Sound Transit's responses to comments.

The Final SEIS includes appendices and the Transportation Technical Report on the enclosed CD. The Final SEIS is also available on Sound Transit's web site at www.soundtransit.org. Please see the Fact Sheet of this Final SEIS regarding document availability and whom to contact for further information about the Long-Range Plan and Final SEIS.

Sincerely,

Karin Ertl
Environmental Affairs and Sustainability

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Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement for the Regional Transit Long-Range Plan Update

November 2014

SOUNDTRANSIT

Issued by Sound Transit (Central Puget Sound Regional Transit Authority)

Prepared in compliance with the State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA) (Chapter 43.21C RCW) and Sound Transit Resolution R7-1 implementing SEPA in Sound Transit procedures.

FACT SHEET

Project Title

Regional Transit Long-Range Plan Update

Proposed Action

Sound Transit is updating its Regional Transit Long-Range Plan, which outlines the agency's vision for a high-capacity transit (HCT) system serving the urban areas of Snohomish, King, and Pierce Counties. The current plan includes corridors for light rail, commuter rail, and regional express bus/bus rapid transit. The plan's focus is on the functional elements of the system—how HCT and supporting services will continue to help meet the transportation needs created by future population and employment growth in the region. Sound Transit is in the process of completing the second phase of its investments, known as Sound Transit 2 (ST2), consistent with the current 2005 Long-Range Plan. An updated Long-Range Plan will look further ahead by addressing regional transit needs that remain after the ST2 System Plan is fully implemented.

Sound Transit is updating its Regional Transit Long-Range Plan to confirm and clarify the long-term vision, make the plan consistent with updated local and regional plans, identify potential modifications to the current plan, and establish Sound Transit's priorities for a future system plan and the next phase of HCT improvements beyond ST2. The updated Regional Transit Long-Range Plan will serve as a basis for future planning and investment decisions.

This Final Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (SEIS) supplements and builds on the 1993 *Regional Transit System Plan Final EIS* and the 2005 *Regional Transit Long-Range Plan Final SEIS*. This Final SEIS evaluates a No Action Alternative, referred to as the Current Plan Alternative, and an Action Alternative, referred to as the Potential Plan Modifications Alternative. The Current Plan Alternative consists of the current 2005 Long-Range Plan plus subsequent Sound Transit Board actions implementing the plan as part of ST2. The Potential Plan Modifications Alternative includes a wide range of options for potentially modifying the 2005 Long-Range Plan (such as adding new transit corridors and services) based on input provided by agencies, jurisdictions, tribes, the public, and other stakeholders during the Draft SEIS scoping process and public comment period. The SEIS evaluates

the potential transportation and environmental effects of implementing the alternatives using a 2040 planning horizon. This planning horizon is consistent with the horizon used in the Puget Sound Regional Council's adopted Metropolitan Transportation Plan known as *Transportation 2040*.

As part of a phased environmental review process, this Final SEIS is a plan-level (rather than a project-level) EIS. Accordingly, alternatives are defined and environmental impacts are evaluated at a broad level. More detailed project-specific environmental review will be completed in the future, as appropriate, for projects that are advanced by the Sound Transit Board as part of a future system plan.

Date of Implementation

The Sound Transit Board is expected to update the Long-Range Plan in late 2014 or early 2015.

Proponent and State Environmental Policy Act Lead Agency

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Licenses and Approvals

No licenses or approvals are required before Sound Transit updates its Regional Transit Long-Range Plan. Any licenses or approvals required to implement specific project components included in the updated Regional Transit Long-Range Plan will be identified in subsequent project-level environmental reviews or Sound Transit planning documents. After the Sound Transit Board adopts an updated Long-Range Plan, Sound Transit may prepare a fiscally constrained system plan that presents projects or groups of projects from the Long-Range Plan to voters for financing approval.

Principal Contributors

This Final SEIS was prepared by Parsons Brinckerhoff, Parametrix, Sound Transit, and other consultants. The List of Preparers section in this Final SEIS provides a detailed list of preparers and the nature of their contributions.

Date of Issue of the Final SEIS

November 26, 2014

Next Steps

Following publication of the Final SEIS, Sound Transit's Regional Transit Long-Range Plan will be updated and adopted by the Sound Transit Board in late 2014 or early 2015. The updated Long-Range Plan can then be used as a guide for developing the next system-level plan. Funding to implement such a system plan would need to be approved by voters.

Related Documents

Copies of the 1996 *Regional Transit Long-Range Vision,* 2005 *Regional Transit Long-Range Plan, Sound Move,* Sound Transit 2 (ST2), and the documents listed below are available for review at the offices of Sound Transit, Union Station, 401 S. Jackson Street, Seattle. Many of these documents are also available on the Sound Transit website (www.soundtransit.org).

Documents Being Supplemented

- *Final Environmental Impact Statement Regional Transit System Plan* (JRPC 1993)
- *Final Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement on the Regional Transit Long-Range Plan* (Sound Transit 2005b)

System-level Background Documents

- *VISION 2040 Final Environmental Impact Statement* (PSRC 2008). Available online at: www.psrc.org
- *Final Environmental Impact Statement for Transportation 2040* (PSRC 2010a). Available online at: www.psrc.org
- *Transportation 2040* (PSRC 2010b). Available online at: www.psrc.org

Project-level Background Documents

Various project-level environmental documents have been completed, or are currently underway, to implement *Sound Move* and ST2. The background environmental documents referenced in this SEIS are listed in the References section. These project-level background documents are available for review at Sound Transit or online as described above.

Cost and Availability of Final SEIS

This Final SEIS is available for public review in a variety of formats and locations. It is available online at www.soundtransit.org/LongRangePlan and on compact disc at no cost. Paper copies are available for the cost listed below:

- Executive Summary—FREE
- Final SEIS—$20
- Transportation Technical Report—$15

Paper copies of these documents are available for review or purchase at the offices of Sound Transit, Union Station, 401 S. Jackson Street, Seattle, WA 98104. To request any of these documents, please contact Karin Ertl (contact information above). To arrange an appointment to view documents at Sound Transit offices, please call 206-903-7000 weekdays between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m.

Appeals

Washington State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA) challenges to this Final SEIS are governed by Sound Transit Resolution R7-1 and the SEPA rules and regulations (Ch. 43.21C RCW and WAC 197-11-680). Sound Transit Resolution R7-1 is available online at: http://www.soundtransit.org/About-Sound-Transit/Board-of-Directors/Board-archives/Resolutions-archive.xml (1994–1997 Resolutions).

As provided in Resolution R7-1, appeals of SEPA determinations must be made in writing by filing a letter of appeal and paying the required fee within 14 days following the date the environmental document is issued. Letter of appeal should be addressed to Joni Earl, Chief Executive Officer, Sound Transit, Union Station, 401 South Jackson Street, Seattle, Washington 98104-2826.

For this Final SEIS, appeals must be received by Sound Transit on or before 5:00 p.m. on December 10, 2014. Additional details about the appeals process and requirements are set out in Resolution R7-1 and in the SEPA rules and regulations.

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Tables

Figures

Appendices

ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

ACCESS	King County Metro paratransit service
ACHP	Advisory Council on Historic Preservation
ADA	Americans with Disabilities Act
BAT	business access and transit
BMP	best management practice
BNSF	Burlington Northern Santa Fe
BRT	bus rapid transit
Btu	British thermal unit
CAA	Clean Air Act
CBD	central business district
CFR	Code of Federal Regulations
CH_4	methane
CO	carbon monoxide
CO_2	carbon dioxide
CO_{2e}	CO_2 equivalent
Commerce	Washington State Department of Commerce
DAHP	Washington State Department of Archaeology and Historic Preservation
DART	King County Metro Dial-A-Ride Transit
dBA	A-weighted decibels
DMU	diesel multiple unit
DNR	Washington State Department of Natural Resources
DSTT	Downtown Seattle Transit Tunnel
Ecology	Washington State Department of Ecology
EIS	environmental impact statement
EMF	electromagnetic fields
EPA	U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
ERC	Eastside Rail Corridor
ESA	Endangered Species Act
ESMS	Environmental and Sustainability Management System
FEMA	Federal Emergency Management Agency
FHWA	Federal Highway Administration

FTA	Federal Transit Administration
GIS	geographic information system
GMA	Washington State Growth Management Act
HCT	high-capacity transit
HOT	high-occupancy toll
HOV	high-occupancy vehicle
HSL	hazardous site list
JBLM	Joint Base Lewis-McChord
KCCP	*King County Comprehensive Plan*
kV	kilovolts
L_{dn}	day/night sound level
LEED	Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design
L_{eq}	equivalent sound level
$L_{eq(h)}$	hourly equivalent sound level
L_{max}	maximum sound level
LRT	light rail transit
L_{v}	velocity level
MAP-21	Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century Act
MIC	Manufacturing and Industrial Center
MOVES	Mobile Vehicle Emission Simulator
mph	miles per hour
MSAT	Mobile Source Air Toxic
MTCA	Model Toxics Control Act
N_2O	nitrous oxide
NAAQS	National Ambient Air Quality Standards
NEPA	National Environmental Policy Act (42 USC 4321-4347)
NIEHS	National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences
NMFS	National Marine Fisheries Service
NO_2	nitrogen dioxide
NOAA	National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NO_x	oxides of nitrogen
NPDES	National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System
NPL	National Priorities List
NRHP	National Register of Historic Places
O_3	ozone
Pb	lead
PM_{10}	particulate matter less than 10 micrometers in size
$PM_{2.5}$	particulate matter less than 2.5 micrometers in size
PPV	peak particle velocity
PSCAA	Puget Sound Clean Air Agency
PSRC	Puget Sound Regional Council
RCW	Revised Code of Washington

SAFETEA-LU	Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users
Section 106	Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (16 USC 470f)
Section 4(f)	Section 4(f) of the U.S. Department of Transportation Act (49 USC 303)
SEIS	supplemental environmental impact statement
SEPA	Washington State Environmental Policy Act
SO_2	sulfur dioxide
SODO	South Downtown district (Seattle)
Sound Transit	Central Puget Sound Regional Transit Authority
SR	State Route
ST2	Sound Transit 2 (second phase system plan adopted in 2008)
TOD	transit-oriented development
TSP	total suspended particulates
TSM	Transportation system management
U.S.	United States
UCLA-HIA	University of California at Los Angeles Health Impact Assessment
UGA	Urban Growth Areas
USC	United States Code
USDOT	U.S. Department of Transportation
USFWS	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
UW	University of Washington
VdB	vibration decibel units
VMT	vehicle miles traveled
WAC	Washington Administrative Code
WARM	Washington ranking method
WDFW	Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife
WHR	Washington Heritage Register
WRIA	Water Resource Inventory Area
WSDOT	Washington State Department of Transportation