

Motion No. M2019-77

A motion of the Board of the Central Puget Sound Regional Transit Authority identifying the preferred alternative(s) and other alternatives for study in the Tacoma Dome Link Extension Environmental Impact Statement for the Tacoma Dome station area, with the expectation that prior to the Board meeting staff continue to work with the Federal Transit Administration in the hope of a revised opinion so the cut and cover options can be studied.

Motion

Recognizing the objectives included in the System Expansion Implementation Plan (SEIP) of identifying a preferred alternative and other alternatives under SEPA and NEPA prior to preparing environmental documents in order to accelerate overall project delivery, and given the commitments to schedule and budget noted in the Partnering Agreements and Statement of Partnering Intent made by the jurisdictions along the project corridor, the Board will consider identifying a “Preferred Alternative” and “Other EIS alternative(s)”, for study within any given segment as follows:

- Preferred Alternative and Other EIS Alternative(s): Incorporates refinements to the representative project, consistent with the scope identified in the ST3 Plan, based on recommendations from the Elected Leadership Group and/ or input from the Stakeholder Group, scoping comments from the public, agencies and Tribes and Sound Transit’s technical analysis.
- As part of the EIS analysis, Sound Transit will establish estimates of the costs of delivering the Preferred Alternative and Other EIS Alternative(s), The estimates would include any necessary modifications identified during the EIS analysis that may be needed to meet ST3 voter-approved requirements and would be calculated based on delivering the full project, not individual segments. These estimates would reflect updates to the costs of construction, real estate, EIS mitigation requirements, etc.

After publication of the draft EIS and receipt of public comment, the Board intends to confirm or modify the preferred alternative.

As such, it is hereby moved by the Board of the Central Puget Sound Regional Transit Authority that, based on Board’s review of the findings from the alternatives development process; the identification of third-party funding consistent with the partnering agreements with local jurisdictions; public and agency scoping comments; tribal comments; input from the SG (May 29, 2019) and ELG (June 14, 2019); the Partnering Agreements with the Cities of Tacoma, Fife, Milton, and Federal Way; the Statement of Partnering Intent with the Puyallup Tribe of Indians, the System Expansion Transit Integration Agreement with King County Metro, input from FTA, and other information developed to date, the preferred alternative, and other alternatives for the TDLE Draft EIS for the Tacoma Dome station area is identified as follows:

Tacoma Dome

Preferred Alternative

- TD2: Elevated station at Tacoma Dome station in vicinity of E 25th St., west of G Street. Options for the alignment and station close to the Sounder corridor should be examined.

Other EIS Alternatives

- TD3: Elevated station at Tacoma Dome station in vicinity of E 25th St., east of G Street. Options for the alignment and station close to the Sounder corridor should be examined.

- TD4 East In-Street: Elevated station at Tacoma Dome station located over E 26th St. Station location should be examined closer to D Street.

Recognizing that the Tacoma Dome Station is the stop for Downtown Tacoma and the South Sound's regional multi-modal hub, the Board also directs staff to work with the City of Tacoma, Puyallup Tribe, local transit agencies, Amtrak, the City's TOD Advisory Group and other stakeholders to ensure the Tacoma Dome Station represents the highest possible level of urban design and integration and catalyzes transit-oriented development in the neighborhood.

This motion also authorizes staff to complete the Draft EIS, using the preferred alternative(s) and other alternatives identified above. The Board will not make a final decision on the project to be built until after completion of the Final EIS, which is anticipated to be published in 2022.

APPROVED by the Board of the Central Puget Sound Regional Transit Authority at a regular meeting thereof held on July 25, 2019.

Attest:

Kent Keel
Board Vice Chair

Kathryn Flores
Board Administrator