



2005 Service Implementation Plan

February 24, 2005



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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

Following a recent major reorganization at Sound Transit, the 2005 Service Implementation Plan (SIP) is dramatically different from past years.

This year's SIP reflects the creation of Sound Transit's new Transportation Services Department, which combines the planning, scheduling and operations for Sounder commuter rail, ST Express regional bus and Tacoma Link light rail into one department. The new department also includes customer service, which ensures that customers remain the center of focus as Sound Transit delivers its ongoing transportation services.

The merging of similar functions is helping make Sound Transit a more efficient, responsive organization. It also positions the agency to begin looking forward and, along with its partners and the public, consider how Sound Transit projects and services should be improved in the future to meet the ever-changing needs of the people who travel through this region.

The SIP this year reflects those agency changes. Instead of a document that looks back, this year's SIP looks ahead to the next six years of service (2005-2010) for ST Express bus, Sounder commuter rail and Link light rail. That change makes this SIP a better, more useful planning tool.

Also starting this year, the SIP approval process will coincide with Sound Transit's budget development process. Because the SIP now covers six years, the document's name has been changed to reflect the first year of the plan's implementation. So, for example, the current SIP is called the 2005 Service Implementation Plan.

In the pages of the 2005 SIP, you will see 2005 service improvements that were approved by the Sound Transit Board on February 24, 2005. You will also see preliminary service plans out to 2010, including projected operations and maintenance costs for each mode, a summary of projected 2010 service levels, a fleet plan and a report on public outreach. The SIP also reflects projected operations and maintenance costs associated with the temporary 2005-2007 closure of the downtown Seattle transit tunnel. Systemwide service levels for 2007 and later are based on the final "build out" of the *Sound Move* Phase I plan, and may be adjusted if a Phase II plan is adopted by the Sound Transit Board and approved by area voters.

The SIP this year is organized for easier access to information. Information that was included in previous SIPs, such as goals, planning strategies, service standards, performance indicators and detailed information on individual routes will be available in other documents as the new Transportation Services Department becomes more established.