Expediting Agreements for Federal Environmental Review/Permitting

Motion Nos. M2026-51 & 52

System Expansion Committee
11/12/2026

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Why we are here

- Provide an overview of federal agency agreements for expedited environmental reviews of ST projects
- Seeking do-pass recommendations to execute the agreements:

1. (Motion No. M2026-51) National Marine Fisheries Services (NMFS)
2. (Motion No. M2026-52) U.S. Fish and Wildlife Services (USFW)

Background

- Resolution No. R20226-11 goal: **accelerate project delivery**
- Environmental permitting team identified opportunities for expediting federal environmental reviews through agreements
- Current NMFS/USFWS “services” expediting agreement ends this year



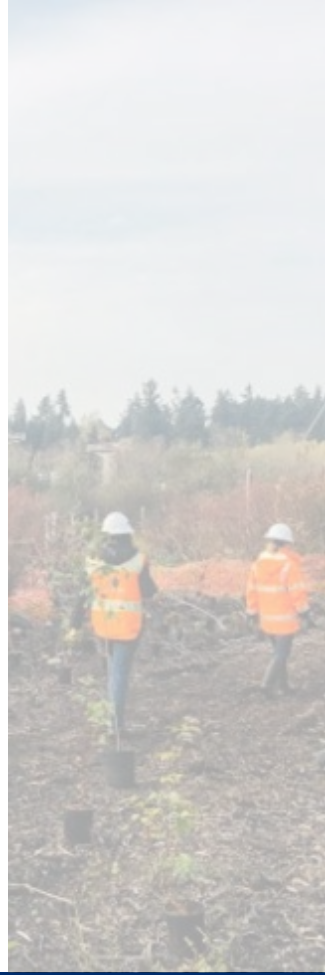
Benefitting (major) Projects

Project	NMFS/USFWS Agreements
Everett Link Extension	X
West Seattle Link Extension	X
Ballard Link Extension	X
Tacoma Dome Link Extension	X
OMF South	X
OMF North	X
Sounder Rail Track and Signal Improvements	X
Downtown Redmond Link Extension (mitigation)	X
Boeing Access Road Station	X
Graham Street Infill Station	X

X indicates review is TBD

NMFS/USFWS Agreement Background

- The services review projects for compliance with the Endangered Species Act (ESA)
- Review occurs during EIS phase – complete prior to NEPA decision
- Some projects require review outside of NEPA
- Approvals can take **2-3 years**



NMFS/USFWS Agreement Terms

- Current agreement – ending this year – allows ST to pay for supplement services staff to expedite reviews
- **New, no cost** agreement - allows ST staff to designate a NMFS/USFWS “liaison” employee
- Position can be filled with ST staff or consultant
- Separately procured consultant services in process through the MATOC
- 5-year term; termination or extensions permitted

NMFS/USFWS Agreement Benefits

- Liaison reports to ST, but retains all technical/support benefits of a federal employee
  - Expedited reviews of projects in the EIS process (3-6 months)
  - Expedited reviews on projects with minor impacts or projects in construction
  - Consultant costs (~$400K allocated across projects) justified by potential time savings / risk reduction

Today's Actions

Requesting do-pass recommendations to the full Board to authorize the following agreements:

1. (Motion No. M2026-51) National Marine Fisheries Services (NMFS)
2. (Motion No. M2026-52) U.S. Fish and Wildlife Services (USFW)

Thank you.

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