

When a Sound Transit 3 ballot measure is submitted, its assumed costs, schedules, revenues and other elements will be thoroughly and independently evaluated by an Expert Review Panel (ERP) appointed by the State of Washington.

This oversight provision is one of many that make Sound Transit one of the most scrutinized agencies around. Sound Transit embraces its high levels of oversight and accountability. They contribute to the agency's outstanding project delivery track record built over the last 14 years (see *Getting the Job Done* fact sheet).

Cost and project controls, outside audits and oversight, and clearly defined and updated milestones are evidence of our commitment to accountability.

External oversight

The 15-member volunteer Citizen Oversight Panel oversees and monitors the implementation of Sound Transit's voter-approved regional transit plan and provides ongoing review and oversight.

An independent 15-member Diversity Oversight Committee was established by the Sound Transit Board in 2006 to ensure that the agency complies with its guiding principles for employment and contracting.

Oversight also includes the U.S. Department of Transportation, which monitors the progress of Sound Transit projects that receive federal grant funding.

Ongoing audits and reviews

State and independent

- Sound Transit has a strong record of clean financial audits from the state of Washington.
- Ongoing peer reviews of project and financial controls are conducted.
- Sound Transit conducts an ongoing Performance Audit program.

Federal

- The Federal Transit Administration (FTA) conducts quarterly reviews of the agency.
- The FTA also conducts more formal Triennial Review. Sound Transit incurred no findings in the most recent one (October 2013).
- As a recipient of federal funding, Sound Transit is required to engage an independent auditor to review annually the agency's compliance with U.S. Office of Management and Budget Circular A-133. Specific accounting procedures and internal controls ensure that federal funds are managed in compliance with federal laws and regulations.
- Sound Transit recently received its 20th clean annual audit of how the agency manages and spends federal

funds. There have been no material weakness findings since the agency began the audits in 1994. Audit reports are shared publicly and presented to the Sound Transit Board of Directors.

International

- Regular independent audits conducted by Lloyd's Registry Quality Assurance ensure that the agency complies with the terms of its ISO 14001 certification, international recognition of how Sound Transit manages its environmental program.

Project controls

The agency aggressively tracks costs, schedule and financial issues. Sound Transit's project controls management system gives the Board of Directors, the agency's management team and the public a strong tool for tracking Sound Transit projects and their costs and budgets - as well as trends that could lead to future costs.

Technical capacity & prior experience

FTA has found that Sound Transit has the capacity to build and operate the light rail, commuter rail and express bus projects of the Sound Transit system. Sound Transit has implemented multiple complex bus, light rail and commuter rail projects and has successfully administered large, complex, federally funded projects for more than 15 years. FTA and Sound Transit meet monthly and quarterly to discuss Sound Transit projects.

Agency milestones

In January of each year, Sound Transit unveils major annual milestones documenting what the agency will accomplish in each quarter. The milestones are a way the agency holds itself accountable and are a valuable tool for the public to track progress.

Measures of success

- High-quality projects are completed on time and within budget.
- Services are well used with high customer satisfaction.
- Checks and balances ensure accountability to the community.
- Staff, consultants and contractors are accountable to the Sound Transit Board of Directors.
- Projects are developed with the help of meaningful community involvement and participation.
- Technical expertise is appropriate to implement the system.
- A lean organization reflects the Sound Transit District's values and diversity.
- Maximum local participation is sought in Sound Transit contracting, including Minority/Women/Disadvantaged Business Enterprise firms.
- Projects include innovative design and operating features that benefit customers and attract new riders.
- Partnerships and integration efforts leverage Sound Transit's investments and/or reduce project costs.