Motion No. M2020-23

A motion of the Board of the Central Puget Sound Regional Transit Authority temporarily suspending the Board’s rules to require all public comment be submitted remotely via email or US mail while the state of emergency related to COVID-19 remains.

Background

On February 29, 2020, Governor Jay Inslee issued a proclamation that a State of Emergency exists in all counties in the state of Washington due to COVID-19. King County also issued an emergency declaration on March 2, 2020. In addition, the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the Washington State Department of Health have warned the public to take precautions due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Chief among the recommended precautions is to limit person to person interactions.

The rules adopted by the Sound Transit Board in 2018 state that the “public comment period is an opportunity for members of the public to address the Board or committee.” The rules also state that “individuals who wish to speak must add their name and the item they wish to speak about to the public comment sign-in sheet before the meeting begins.”

On March 11, 2020, following the expansion of public health measures on COVID-19 limiting large gatherings, the Board has allowed members of the public to submit comments electronically by sending them to emailtheboard@soundtransit.org. Comments received up to one hour before the meeting are provided to Board members electronically during the meeting. Comments received after that deadline are provided to Board members after the meeting.

Since that time, Governor Inslee has barred gatherings larger than 50 people, and the CDC has recommended that people not gather in sizes larger than 10 people. Temporarily suspending the rules to receive public comments remotely via email or US mail will encourage adherence to public health advisories while maintaining the public’s ability to provide comments to the Board while COVID-19 precautions are in effect.

Motion

It is hereby moved by the Board of the Central Puget Sound Regional Transit Authority that the Board’s rules are temporarily suspended to require all public comment to be submitted remotely via email or US mail while the state of emergency related to COVID-19 remains.

APPROVED by the Board of the Central Puget Sound Regional Transit Authority at a regular meeting thereof held on __________________________.

________________________________________
Kent Keel
Board Chair

Attest:

________________________________________
Kathryn Flores
Board Administrator