

Motion No. M2022-45

Adopting Station Names for the Federal Way Link Extension Project

Meeting:	Date:	Type of action:	Staff contact:
System Expansion Committee	06/09/2022	Recommend to Board	Ron Lewis, Executive Director, DECM
Board	06/23/2022	Final action	Linneth Riley-Hall, Executive Project Director – Federal Way Link Extension Kurt Workman, Capital Projects Community Engagement Manager

Proposed action

Adopts the permanent station names for the three stations included as part of the Federal Way Link Extension project.

Key features summary

- This action adopts the permanent names for the three stations included as part of the Federal Way Link Extension.
- Agency staff met with staff from local jurisdictions to discuss the station naming process to review a list of proposed names composed by agency staff. Sound Transit extended a station naming table at two open houses and an online open house where participants ranked their preferences of a short list of names or provided a suggested name.
- The proposed permanent station names were evaluated by staff based on Sound Transit’s Station, Line and Facility Naming Policy, updated in October 2021 via Resolution No. R2021-14, established by the Board.
- For the station near Kent Des Moines Rd., “Highline College Station” was evaluated as most compliant with the Policy and received some community support during engagement rounds in fall 2019 and spring 2022.
 - This name avoids a redundancy issue with the existing Kent-Des Moines Park and Ride and Kent Station. However, the cities of Kent and Des Moines strongly support the name “Kent Des Moines Station” and passed Council Resolutions in support of that name.
 - Public input also favored Kent Des Moines as the station name.
- For the station near S. 272nd St, “Star Lake Station” was evaluated to be most compliant with the station naming policy.
 - The “Star Lake Station” name has also received support from the Kent jurisdiction and through the public input process.
- For the station near the current Federal Way Transit Center, “Federal Way Downtown” and “Downtown Federal Way” were evaluated to be equally compliant with the policy.

- The Federal Way jurisdiction has expressed a preference for “Federal Way Transit Center Station”. However, this name was deemed to be out of compliance with the policy’s word count limit.
- Public input also favored “Federal Way Downtown” as the station name.

Background

The Federal Way Link Extension is a 7.8-mile light rail extension from the existing Angle Lake Station in SeaTac to Federal Way with service to the cities of SeaTac, Des Moines, Kent and Federal Way. The extension will travel primarily along I-5 and include three stations near Kent Des Moines Road, S. 272nd Street and I-5, and the Federal Way Transit Center. New parking structures will be provided at all three stations. The project began Final Design in mid-2019 and is currently planned to open for service in 2024.

The Board originally adopted the Station, Line and Facility Naming Policy in February 2012 which established a process, timeframe, and criteria for naming facilities. In October 2021, the Board updated the agency station naming policy, via Resolution No. R2021-14, to ensure stations and facility names remain relevant, allow for future system expansion, and most importantly, embrace best practice to help reduce rider confusion and help passengers find their way within the system.

The policy states that station names must be considered based on their adherence to the following principles:

- Avoid redundancy: Be distinct from names of existing stations including those owned by the agency and those owned by other transit agencies, unless stations are co-located.
- Be appropriate: Utilize language that is appropriate throughout communities within the service area.
- Be accessible: Comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act and have positive or neutral impacts to passengers with disabilities.
- Be intuitive: Be easy to understand and use for all passengers, including passengers with limited English proficiency.
- Be easily implemented: Work well throughout the passenger experience (e.g., audio, visual and tactile experiences).
- Reflect geography: Avoid corporate names, honorific naming and commercial references.
- Be brief and easy to remember: Be three words or less, 26 characters or less, easy to read and memorable

The station name evaluation process includes three phases: internally identify and evaluate potential names based on defined criteria; receive input from the public, local jurisdictions, and the Sound Transit Board; and approval by the Board.

In addition, the policy identifies that the names should be chosen in this order:

- 1) city,
- 2) neighborhood,
- 3) landmark; and
- 4) street or combination of a city or neighborhood name with a minor street or landmark.

Policy evaluation

An internal committee comprised of staff from the Federal Way Link Extension project, Government and Community Relations, Passenger Experience and Community Engagement evaluated the shortlist of names against the criteria listed in the policy. Based on this evaluation, as well as considering public and jurisdictional input, the station names most compliant with the policy are:

	Avoids redundancy	Appropriate	Accessible	Intuitive	Easily implemented	Reflects geography	Brief and easy to remember	Public feedback	City feedback
Highline College	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	-	✓	✗
Kent/Des Moines	✗	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	-	✓	✓
Highline	✓	✓	✓	-	✓	-	✓	✓	✗
Midway	✓	✓	✓	-	✓	-	✓	-	✗
Star Lake	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Federal Way Downtown	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	-	✓	
Downtown Federal Way	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	-	-	

Key	
✓	Compliant
✗	Not compliant
-	Neutral

Project status

○					
Project Identification	Alternatives Identification	Conceptual Engineering/ Draft EIS	Preliminary Engineering/ Final EIS	Final Design	Construction

Projected completion date for Final Design/Construction: Q4 2024

Project scope, schedule and budget summary are located on page 53 of the April 2022 Agency Progress Report.

Fiscal information

There is no financial impact for this action.

Disadvantaged and small business participation

Not Applicable to this action.

Public involvement

The Station, Line and Facility Naming Policy requires public and stakeholder input be received during the 30 percent facility design review process and regular project communications with the public and stakeholders. To meet this requirement, public meetings and materials included discussion of potential names and collection of public feedback. Based on this feedback along with input from the community and partner jurisdictions, Sound Transit extended the station naming public involvement process to include:

- Meetings with staff from local jurisdictions to discuss the station naming process and to review a list of proposed names composed by agency staff.
- Station naming table at each of the two station design open houses where participants were asked to rank their preferences of a short list of names or to provide a suggested name.
- An online open house where participants could fill out a survey ranking their preferences of a short list of names or provide a suggested name.
- Postings on social media inviting public comment on station names at the design open houses and/or through the online open house.
- Distribution of electronic newsletters with a survey link to over 5,000 subscribers to inform them of the opportunity to participate in the station naming process.
- All project communications about potential permanent station names identified the Sound Transit Board as the final authority in determining permanent station names.

The two open houses were held in November 2019 at Highline College in the City of Des Moines and at the Performing Arts and Events Center in the City of Federal Way. The online open house was publicly available from November 13 to December 13, 2019. A final round of public comment was held in the spring of 2022. Sound Transit received the following feedback on the list of names that participants of the survey (both online and in-person) were asked to rank.

- During the 2019 round of engagement, participants favored Kent Des Moines Station as the name for the station located near Kent Des Moines Road with Highline or Highline College finishing

second. Highline or Highline College, was slightly more popular during the 2022 opportunity for input.

- Participants strongly favored Star Lake Station as the name for the station located at the existing Star Lake Park and Ride at S. 272nd Street and I-5 South.
- Participants favored Federal Way Transit Center Station as the name for the station located at the existing Federal Way Transit Center. However, Federal Way Transit Center is not compliant with the 2021 policy update – specifically the word count limit. Federal Way Downtown was the most popular during the 2022 opportunity for input.
- This public feedback was shared with staff at the Cities of Des Moines, Kent and Federal Way.

The total number of comments and survey responses through all phases of public engagement was 1264. Both Kent and Des Moines Councils passed Resolutions in support of the Kent-Des Moines Station.

Kent Des Moines station area	Percent Support
Kent Des Moines Station	67%
Highline Station	27%
Highline College Station	5%
South 272nd station area	
Star Lake Station	79%
S 272nd St Station	21%
Federal Way Transit Center	
Federal Way Downtown Station	83%
Downtown Federal Way Station	17%

Time constraints

A one-month delay would not create a significant impact to the schedule.

Prior Board/Committee actions

Resolution No. R2021-14: Adopted a Station, Line and Facility Naming Policy and superseded Resolution No. R2012-02.

Environmental review – KH 5/24/22

Legal review – AJP 6/3/22



Motion No. M2022-45

A motion of the Board of the Central Puget Sound Regional Transit Authority adopting the permanent station names for the three stations included as part of the Federal Way Link Extension project.

Background

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Star Lake	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Federal Way Downtown	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	-	✓	
Downtown Federal Way	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	-	-	

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Motion

It is hereby moved by the Board of the Central Puget Sound Regional Transit Authority that the permanent station names for the three stations included as part of the Federal Way Link Extension project are adopted as follows:

Kent Des Moines Station
Star Lake Station
Federal Way Downtown Station

APPROVED by the Board of the Central Puget Sound Regional Transit Authority at a regular meeting thereof held on June 23, 2022.



Claudia Balducci
Board Chair Pro Tem

Attest:



Kathryn Flores
Board Administrator