

# ***On-Board Dog Policy Discussion***

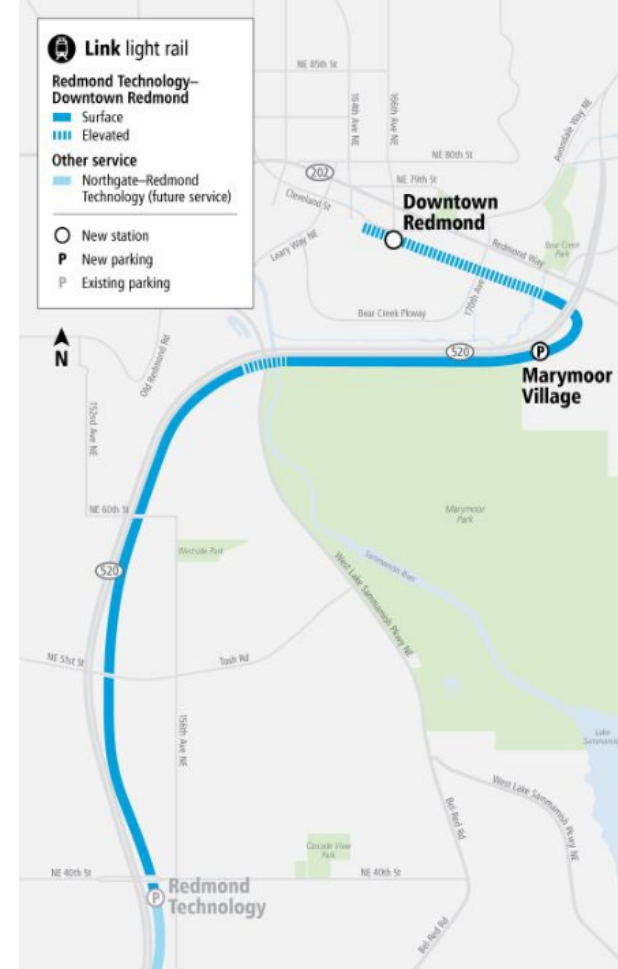
*Executive Committee*

*7/3/2025*



# Why we are here

- Our system is growing, and we are connecting passengers to new amenities.
- Interest in understanding our rule for on-board pets and how it aligns with passenger expectations.
- ***Motion No. M2025-34: Directing the chief executive officer to research and implement updates to Sound Transit rider rules for dogs onboard.***



# Connecting passengers to amenities

- On May 10th, we opened the Downtown Redmond Light Rail Extension.
- Marymoor Park, a regional 640-acre park, is accessible via the new Marymoor Village Station. The park is well known for its 40-acre off-leash dog area.



# ***Pet Policies***

# ***ORCA agency pet policies***

- All ORCA agencies permit pets on board service
- Each agency sets slightly different requirements, for example:
  - Many mandate that pets be in carriers;
  - Some have a **provision allowing dogs outside a carrier**;
    - At least two agencies require a leash and muzzle;
    - Others do not require a muzzle

# *National peer agency pet policies*

- Some peer light rail operators allow pets in closed containers.
- At least one rail operator allows large pet dogs that don't fit in a container as long as it is leashed, and has restrictions around peak hours and large events.

# *Sound Transit's pet policy*

- Pets may ride if they are carried in a small container.
- We do not have a provision to allow dogs to be outside a container.
- Security has received 8 calls about pets in the past year (.04% of total calls).

# *Administration of our pet policy*

- We know passengers take leashed dogs on our service.
- Generally, if a pet is under control of handler and not posing a safety concern, Sound Transit personnel do not engage pets that are outside of a container.
- There is opportunity to more closely align our pet policy with current practices.



# ***What we've heard***

## Interest in:

- A pet policy that is aligned with how it's administered.
- A simple and enforceable approach.
- Community engagement to explore passenger knowledge and expectations of pet policy.

## ***Motion would***

- Direct the CEO to research industry peers and best practices to inform updates to Sound Transit rider rules for dogs onboard based on the principles laid out in the motion. If it is determined to be in the best interest of passengers, implement a rule change consistent with the principles in the motion, inform passengers and report back to the Board.

*Thank you.*



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