



Resolution No. R2019-23

Establishing Pacific Ave/State Route 7 Bus Corridor Improvements Project and Budget Amendment

Meeting:	Date:	Type of action:	Staff contact:
System Expansion Committee Board of Directors	08/08/2019 08/22/2019	Recommend to Board Final action	Don Billen, Executive Director, PEPD Alex Krieg, Senior Manager – Planning & Integration Chelsea Levy, HCT Development Director – South Corridor

Proposed action

Amending the Adopted 2019 Budget to establish one of the early ST3 deliverable projects by (a) establishing the project and project name as Pacific Ave/State Route 7 Bus Corridor Improvements, (b) establishing the project allocation in the amount of \$60,500,000, and (c) establishing a 2019 Annual Budget in the amount of \$2,535,000.

Key features summary

- The Sound Transit 3 (ST3) System Plan included a capped capital contribution to Pierce Transit for bus capital enhancements for speed, reliability, and convenience along Pacific Avenue/State Route Seven (SR7) in Tacoma and Pierce County.
- In early 2017, Pierce Transit began a feasibility study of high capacity transit along this corridor and identified bus rapid transit (BRT) as the preferred option. In 2018, the Pierce Transit Board of Commissioners identified a locally preferred alternative, which included the mode (BRT), the termini of the corridor (downtown Tacoma and Spanaway), and the alignment.
- In 2019, the Pierce Transit Board identified station locations, lane configuration, and routing to the Tacoma Dome Station. Pierce Transit has engaged the community throughout this process using a variety of methods.
- Pierce Transit’s project is currently scheduled to begin operation in early 2023.

Background

ST3 included a capped capital contribution to Pierce Transit in the amount of \$60 million for capital enhancements to support bus speed, reliability, and convenience along Pacific Avenue/SR7 in Tacoma and Pierce County. This corridor is currently served by Route 1, which is the highest ridership route in the Pierce Transit network and accounts for 12 percent of system ridership.

In early 2017, Pierce Transit began a feasibility study of high capacity transit along this corridor and identified bus rapid transit (BRT) as the preferred option. In 2018, the Pierce Transit Board of Commissioners identified a locally preferred alternative, which included the mode (BRT), the termini of the corridor (downtown Tacoma and Spanaway), and the alignment. In 2019, the Pierce Transit Board

identified station locations, lane configuration, and routing to the Tacoma Dome Station. Pierce Transit has engaged the community throughout this process using a variety of methods.

Pierce Transit will use Sound Transit’s capped contribution to support implementation of their proposed BRT project. Specifically, a small portion of Sound Transit’s contribution will enable Pierce Transit to proceed through project development while the majority of the contribution will support construction of improvements that contribute to the high capacity transit elements of the project, including transit speed and reliability improvements.

Pierce Transit has applied for a Federal Transit Administration (FTA) Small Starts Grant in the amount of \$59.7 million and received a Medium-High rating. Pierce Transit has secured an additional \$30.4M in other federal, state, and local funding sources.

Pierce Transit is currently in the environmental review process working with the FTA as lead agency for the National Environmental Policy Act. Pierce Transit is the lead agency for this proposal under the State Environmental Policy Act. Pierce Transit will initiate preliminary engineering later this year. Final design will be complete in early 2020 with construction expected that year. Pierce Transit expects to open their BRT project for service in 2023.

Fiscal information

The proposed action establishes the Pacific Avenue SR7 Bus Corridor Improvement project with an authorized project allocation to date in the amount of \$60,500,000 and a 2019 annual budget in the amount of \$2,535,000.

Pacific Avenue SR7 Bus Corridor Improvement

(in thousands)

Project Phase	Annual Project Budget			Baseline Budget		
	Adopted 2019 Annual Project Budget	Budget Revision	Revised 2019 Annual Project Budget	Baseline Budget (Current)	Allocation Change	Baseline Budget (New)
Agency Administration	\$	\$35	\$35	\$	\$500	\$500
Preliminary Engineering						
Final Design						
Third Party Agreements		2,500	2,500		60,000	60,000
Right of Way						
Construction						
Construction Services						
Vehicles						
Contingency						
Total	\$	\$2,535	\$2,535	\$	\$60,500	\$60,500

Notes:

Amounts are expressed in Year of Expenditure \$000s.

This capped contribution was approved in the ST3 plan. Thus, this project is within the agency’s capacity to fund.

Disadvantaged and Small Business Participation

Not applicable in this action.

Public involvement

Not applicable in this action.

Time constraints

A one-month delay would have an impact on Pierce Transit’s ability to execute a contract for project development and design services.

Environmental review – KH 7/30/19

Legal review – AJP 8/1/19



Resolution No. R2019-23

A RESOLUTION of the Board of the Central Puget Sound Regional Transit Authority amending the Adopted 2019 Budget to establish one of the early ST3 deliverable projects by (a) establishing the project and project name as Pacific Ave/State Route 7 Bus Corridor Improvements, (b) establishing the project allocation in the amount of \$60,500,000, and (c) establishing a 2019 Annual Budget in the amount of \$2,535,000.

WHEREAS, the Central Puget Sound Regional Transit Authority, commonly known as Sound Transit, was formed under chapters 81.104 and 81.112 of the Revised Code of Washington (RCW) for the Pierce, King, and Snohomish Counties region by action of their respective county councils pursuant to RCW 81.112.030; and

WHEREAS, Sound Transit is authorized to plan, construct, and permanently operate a high-capacity system of transportation infrastructure and services to meet regional public transportation needs in the Central Puget Sound region; and

WHEREAS, in general elections held within the Sound Transit district on November 5, 1996, November 4, 2008, and November 8, 2016, voters approved local funding to implement a regional high-capacity transportation system for the Central Puget Sound region; and

WHEREAS, in December 2018, the Board approved Resolution No. R2018-44, adopting an annual budget for the period from January 1 through December 31, 2019, and adopting the 2019 Transit Improvement Plan; and

WHEREAS, the Sound Transit 3 (ST3) System Plan included a capped capital contribution to Pierce Transit for bus capital enhancements for speed, reliability, and convenience along Pacific Avenue/State Route Seven (SR7) in Tacoma and Pierce County; and

WHEREAS, in early 2017, Pierce Transit began a feasibility study of high capacity transit along this corridor and identified bus rapid transit (BRT) as the preferred option. In 2018, the Pierce Transit Board of Commissioners identified a locally preferred alternative, which included the mode (BRT), the termini of the corridor (downtown Tacoma and Spanaway), and the alignment; and

WHEREAS, in 2019, the Pierce Transit Board identified station locations, lane configuration, and routing to the Tacoma Dome Station. Pierce Transit has engaged the community throughout this process using a variety of methods; and

WHEREAS, Pierce Transit has applied for a Federal Transit Administration (FTA) Small Starts Grant in the amount of \$59.7 million and received a Medium-High rating. Pierce Transit has secured an additional \$30.4M in other federal, state, and local funding sources; and

WHEREAS, the capped contribution of \$60,500,000 was approved in the ST3 plan.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of the Central Puget Sound Regional Transit Authority that the Adopted 2019 Annual Budget is amended to establish one of the early ST3 deliverable projects by (a) establishing the project and project name as Pacific Ave/State Route 7 Bus Corridor Improvements, (b) establishing the project allocation in the amount of \$60,500,000, and (c) establishing a 2019 Annual Budget in the amount of \$2,535,000.

ADOPTED by the Board of the Central Puget Sound Regional Transit Authority at a regular meeting thereof held on August 22, 2019.



John Marchione
Board Chair

Attest:



Kathryn Flores
Board Administrator