

Agenda Item: 5
RESOLUTION NO. 04**Staff Contact: David Kalberer**
Phone No.: 684-1409**ACTION:**

Approve Resolution No. 04 authorizing initiation of project level planning and environmental assessment for the South Corridor Commuter Rail Project, including service between Tacoma, Renton and Seattle. This resolution includes actions to:

- Establish the RTA as the policy oversight body for this work.
- Establish a project planning budget of \$2.35 million through 1994.
- Allow Metro to act as the receiving agency for federal grant funds allocated for this work.
- Allow Metro to amend current consultant contracts as necessary to complete the work.
- Authorize interim staffing assignments from Metro and Pierce Transit to conduct this work.

DISCUSSION:

The recommended Regional Transit System Plan envisions commuter rail service between Tacoma and Seattle, with a line to Renton to be implemented within two years of locally committed funding. System level planning work has been completed for the south corridor commuter rail service and the project meets the legislative criteria for cost effectiveness.

Project level planning and environmental analysis is the next required phase in the development of the project. During this phase of the project, technical analysis, as well as coordination and discussion with local jurisdictions and communities, will identify specific station locations for the commuter rail service. In addition, detailed feeder bus and rail service plans will be defined and operating and capital costs of the system will be reviewed. Environmental impacts of the project will be assessed and documented and environmental approvals will be obtained as necessary to proceed with project implementation contingent upon a decision of the RTA Board to proceed with implementation. The scope of work for this phase is summarized in Attachment A.

This work does not constitute or imply a final commitment by the RTA Board to implement the project nor does it commit funds beyond the completion of the project level planning studies. This phase of the project, including public meetings on environmental impacts, is expected to take about 12 to 14 months.

BUDGET ISSUES:

The cost of this work is estimated to be \$2.35 million including consultant contracts for engineering and planning, patronage forecasting and environmental analysis; transit agency staff cost; and funds for coordination and review by local jurisdictions. The FTA grant amount approved for this work is \$1.88 million. Metro and Pierce Transit have identified resources within current budgets to provide the local match of \$470,000 (Metro \$370,000; Pierce Transit \$100,000). This would be the first use of federal appropriations for the commuter rail project and would enhance the RTA's ability to preserve the remaining appropriated funds for use in this region.

REGIONAL TRANSIT AUTHORITY

RESOLUTION NO. 4

A RESOLUTION of the Board of the Regional Transit Authority for the Pierce, King and Snohomish Counties region authorizing project level planning and preparation of an environmental assessment for the South Corridor Commuter Rail Project including service between Tacoma, Renton and Seattle.

WHEREAS, pursuant to Chapters 81.104 and 81.112 RCW, the Regional Transit Authority ("RTA"), is responsible for finalizing and implementing a system and financing plan for high capacity transportation within the RTA's service area; and

WHEREAS, as provided by RCW 81.112.030(1), the Joint Regional Policy Committee for High Capacity Transportation has adopted and recommended a system and financing plan entitled Regional Transit System Plan ("Plan") to the RTA for its consideration; and

WHEREAS, the recommended Plan includes commuter rail service between Tacoma, Renton and Seattle as an element of an integrated public transportation system; and

WHEREAS, the recommended Plan envisions this service to be implemented within two years of locally committed funding for a regional transit system; and

WHEREAS, system level work has been completed for this service and the project meets the legislative criteria for cost-effectiveness; and

WHEREAS, project level planning and an environmental assessment is the next required phase in the development of this project and will provide the specific information needed for the RTA to make a final decision about implementation of this service; and

WHEREAS, the Federal Transit Administration has approved a grant of \$1.88 million funding for project level planning for this commuter rail service to the Municipality of Metropolitan Seattle ("Metro") which has served as the lead planning agency for the Regional Transit Project; and

WHEREAS, Metro has accepted the grant but will not proceed with project level planning until the RTA authorizes such work to begin;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of the Regional Transit Authority as follows:

Section 1. The RTA Board hereby authorizes project level planning and preparation of an Environmental Assessment for the South Corridor Commuter Rail Project, including service between Tacoma, Renton and Seattle and establishes a project budget of \$2.35 million for performance of this planning and environmental assessment work through 1994.

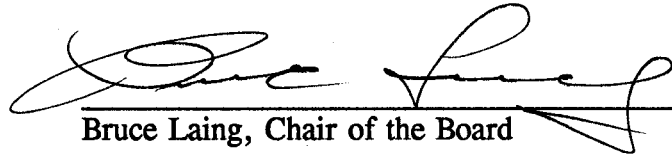
Section 2. The RTA Board hereby assumes the responsibility for policy oversight and direction for this project pursuant to Chapters 81.104 and 81.112 RCW and may appoint a subcommittee of the Board to assist in this responsibility.

Section 3. The RTA Board hereby recognizes Metro as the receiving agency for the \$1.88 million FTA grant approved for this project and requests that Metro amend current consultant contracts as necessary to support the completion of this work within the approved budget.

Section 4. The RTA Board further authorizes the development of appropriate arrangements for staffing assignments from Metro and Pierce Transit to perform the planning

and environmental assessment on an interim basis pending further direction from the RTA Board on staffing.

ADOPTED by the Board of the Regional Transit Authority for Pierce, King and Snohomish Counties region this 8th day of October, 1993.


Bruce Laing, Chair of the Board

ATTEST:


Clerk of the Board