

REGIONAL TRANSIT AUTHORITY

MOTION NO. 47 BACKGROUND AND COMMENTS

Meeting:	Date:	Agenda Item:	Staff Contact:	Phone:
Public and Government Affairs Committee	11/7/97	No. 6	Sheila Dezarn, Government Relations Manager	(206) 684-1730
Board of Directors	11/13/97 12/11/97	No. 7 No. 7C-2		

ACTION:

Adoption of the RTA's 1998 State Legislative Program.

BACKGROUND:

In preparation for the 1998 legislative session, the PGA Committee began an outreach effort to the legislators whose districts are in or overlap the RTA District and to leadership, particularly transportation leadership. The purpose of this effort was to (1) provide information about the RTA's policies and implementation program and (2) identify any questions or concerns that legislators may have regarding how projects/services will affect their district and how they and their constituents will be informed and involved. Response to this effort has been very positive and these discussions seem to be generating greater understanding and support. From these discussions, which are still underway, it is apparent that legislative leaders are again working to develop a comprehensive transportation revenue proposal for the 1998 session. Also, discussions regarding transit funding and performance are continuing and it is possible that legislation that would result in less funding for local transit agencies may again be introduced.

Based on this, it is recommended that the RTA focus its efforts during the 1998 session in three general areas:

- (1) Support additional funding for transportation in general – and for projects that support and enhance RTA investments in particular.
- (2) Support or seek legislation that enables the RTA to implement its projects and services more efficiently and/or more cost-effectively.
- (3) Monitor and oppose efforts to reduce local transit funding or modify the RTA's enabling legislation in a way that would encumber its ability to deliver the program that the voters supported.

RELEVANT BOARD POLICIES AND PREVIOUS ACTIONS TAKEN:

The recommended program reflects policies adopted in *Sound Move* to encourage the state to fund the other investments necessary in the Central Puget Sound region to improve mobility.

KEY FEATURES:

- Advocate additional state funding for completing the HOV lane system and for investments in intercity passenger rail.
- Monitor and respond to any legislation introduced that directly affects Central Puget Sound transit programs, or which would affect the RTA.

FUNDING:

N/A

ALTERNATIVES:

Board members may have amendments or revisions to propose to the discussion draft.

CONSEQUENCES OF DELAY:

The RTA needs to be prepared to represent its interests to the Washington State Legislature when the session gets underway on January 12, 1998.

**Central Puget Sound
Regional Transit Authority**

Motion No. 47

A motion of the Board of the Central Puget Sound Regional Transit Authority for the Pierce, King and Snohomish Counties region adopting the 1998 state legislative program.


Background:

To provide policy guidance to RTA staff and its contracted representatives in Olympia, Washington, the Board annually adopts a legislative program and directs staff to regularly report on activities affecting the agency.

Motion:


It is hereby moved by the Board of the Regional Transit Authority that the attached 1998 state legislative program be adopted.

Approved by the RTA Board on 12-11 1997.



Bob Drewel
Board Chair

ATTEST:



Marcia Walker
Board Administrator

**1998 State Legislative Program
Central Puget Sound Regional Transit Authority**

1. **1997-1999 Supplemental Transportation Budget.** Support state funding for WSDOT and other agency projects that complement the RTA's program.
2. **Transportation Revenue Package.** Support revenue enhancement package for transportation. Support funding for projects that are highly related to the RTA's program of investments, e.g., HOV system and the intercity passenger rail program.
3. **Legislative Transportation Committee Transit Issues.** Monitor and respond to any legislation introduced that directly affects Central Puget Sound transit programs.
4. **Partnerships.** Support other agency programs that complement, or are related to the RTA program, such as investments in freight mobility, grade separations and economic development
5. **Monitoring.** Monitor and quickly respond to legislation brought to the legislature by other interests which would affect the RTA.

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6. ***Short-term Borrowing Act.*** Seek to be listed as one of the governmental entities authorized to use the Short-term Borrowing Act (RCW 39.50).