

SOUND TRANSIT

MOTION NO. M98-29

**Automatic Fare Vending Equipment
BACKGROUND AND COMMENTS**

Meeting:	Date:	Type of Action:	Staff Contact:	Phone:
Board of Directors	5/14/98	Discussion	Paul W. Price	206-689-4760
Board of Directors	5/28/98	Approval	Betty Laurs	206-689-7440

ACTION:

Approval to release the Request for Proposals for Sounder Commuter Rail automatic fare vending machines.

BACKGROUND:

At its meeting on November 13, 1997, the board held discussions concerning the type of preferred commuter rail fare equipment to be used for Sounder service. Issues explored through that discussion were the different fare collection methods in use today; basic criteria that should be applied to any fare collection system chosen; types of fare collection machines available and how they are used; and other fare collection issues.

Through that presentation, staff had proposed that the equipment specifications would be written for the acquisition of fare vending equipment that would be compatible with future use in LINK and Regional Express services. The specifications would be developed for a Sounder fare collection system that would be a zone-based, proof-of-payment, barrier-free method, but making no presumptions about Sound Transit fare levels or fare policy. Fares and fare policy will be set by the board in a future forum.

In its discussions, the board expressed strong desires that the machine hardware and software be specified with a wide range of flexibility and adaptability to future Sound Transit fare policies and that the use of smart card technology be included. However, activation of smart card capabilities for the Sounder start-up, prior to full regional smart card implementation, will be decided by the Board in conjunction with approval of regional fare policies.

To accomplish these tasks and meet the schedule outlined in the November agenda item, staff solicited proposals from various consulting firms to develop specifications and a bid package for the procurement of fare vending machines. Through this competitive process, the firm of Booz-Allen-Hamilton was chosen to perform this work.

For the past few months, the consultants have been meeting with Sound Transit staff, other transit providers, and various vendors to develop comprehensive specifications for the vending machines. Special coordination meetings have been held with the Regional Fare Integration Committee to ensure that appropriate technology is selected that will allow integration into the future SMART card applications chosen for the region. Other issues addressed at these meetings include transfers between providers, regional passes, customer service, data collection and reporting mechanisms and many other

coordinating systems necessary to provide seamless connections for passengers moving from one carrier to another.

At the May 14, 1998 board meeting, staff presented an update on that work and a summary of the specific required features of the equipment.

RELEVANT BOARD POLICIES AND PREVIOUS ACTIONS TAKEN:

- ◆ Resolution No. 78-1, Delegation of Authority
- ◆ Adoption of *Sound Move*, The Ten-Year Regional Transit System Plan (May 31, 1996)
(Sound Move calls for commuter rail service to be implemented by year-end 1999)
- ◆ Adoption of Fiscal Year 1998 Budget (December 11, 1997)
- ◆ Sound Transit Board on November 13, 1997 provided input leading to the development of specifications for commuter rail fare equipment procurement
- ◆ Presentation to the Sound Transit Board on May 14, 1998, including a summary of the specific required features of the equipment

FUNDING:

The Sound Transit budget allows for the purchase of approximately \$4 million worth of fare equipment in 1998. It is anticipated that up to 50 machines will be procured for both the south and north line with a delivery schedule stretching over approximately 18 months for the first portion to serve the south line. The second delivery of machines for the north line would occur approximately three to four months before start-up of that portion of the service. The procurement will contain an option for an additional 50 fare vending machines to serve LINK as well as ensuring that a compatible connection exists for Regional Express buses.

ALTERNATIVES:

Since Sound Transit is committed to providing the commuter rail service described in *Sound Move*, the agency must procure fare vending equipment to operate the service. However, the board could choose to alter the draft specifications for the procurement of that equipment.

CONSEQUENCES OF DELAY:

Due to the timeline for manufacturing the equipment as indicated by vendor input and industry standards, the delay in issuing the RFP could result in not receiving the machines with adequate time for testing before service is scheduled to begin in 1999.

SOUND TRANSIT

MOTION NO. M98-29

A motion of the Board of the Central Puget Sound Regional Transit Authority approving the release of the Request of Proposals for the procurement of Sounder Commuter Rail automatic fare vending machines.

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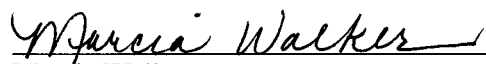
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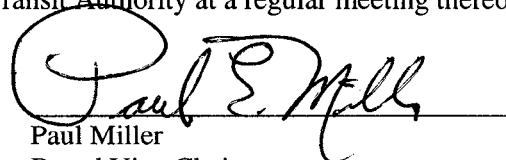
MOTION:

It is hereby moved by the Board of the Central Puget Sound Regional Transit Authority that the Request for Proposals for the procurement of Sounder Commuter Rail automatic fare vending machines be released.

Approved by the Board of the Central Puget Sound Regional Transit Authority at a regular meeting thereof on the 28th day of May, 1998.

ATTEST:


Marcia Walker
Board Administrator


Paul Miller
Board Vice-Chair