

## SOUND TRANSIT

### MOTION NO. M98-67

#### Station/Facility Design Issues in Common For Commuter Rail, Link Light Rail, and Regional Express BACKGROUND AND COMMENTS

Meeting:	Date:	Type of Action:	Staff Contact:	Phone:
Board of Directors	9/10/98	Discussion/Possible Action	Betty Laurs, Commuter Rail Debora Ashland, Link Light Rail Linda Smith, Regional Express	206-689-7440 206-689-3309 206-689-4922

#### **ACTION:**

The adoption of Motion No. M98-67 is being requested of the Board pertaining to the incorporation of restrooms and drinking fountains in Sound Transit facilities. Our intent for this meeting is to further discuss the station design policy issues for public restrooms and drinking fountains and present staff recommendations. All Design Issues in Common will be incorporated into each Line of Business Design Criteria Manual.

#### **BACKGROUND:**

In order to proceed with design and engineering, Sound Transit's philosophy needs to be addressed, with respect to design, maintenance, and operation of facilities. This will set the standards for which design criteria can be established and create a basis for designers, engineers, and architects to begin their work on station design.

The three Lines of Business have been discussing design elements in common to ensure all of Sound Transit will work as a unified whole and to assist in the development and maintenance of integrated systems. The goal is to establish policy and criteria that will serve all Lines of Business and work with our partnering agencies in the region. We wish to determine the common thread of issues that applies to all facilities.

At the July 17, 1998 Executive Committee Meeting, we generally discussed many design elements. At the August 27, 1998 Board Meeting, we presented design elements in the following format to facilitate the policy discussion:

1. Description of Element
2. Background
  - a. Others experiences
  - b. Costs: construction, operating, maintenance, revenue
3. Options
4. Staff Recommended Approach
5. Policy Decisions
6. Criteria/Standards/Physical Requirements (to be developed in detail after policy decision)

This written material contains only staff recommendations for public restrooms and drinking fountains. Staff provided background information, including other systems experiences, costs, and options and

recommendations at the meeting on August 27, 1998. Discussion will continue at the September 10, 1998 Board Meeting with possible action. After policy decisions are determined, specific design criteria will be drafted for designing and developing Sound Transit facilities.

## **STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS FOR SEPTEMBER 10, 1998 BOARD MEETING:**

### **Public Restrooms in Stations/Facilities**

Our primary goal is to build an efficient transportation system for the Puget Sound area. The citizens of this region have designated specific dollar amounts to build the best transportation system possible. To do that, difficult choices are required to keep our costs intact and our focus on transportation. The topic of whether or not to provide public restrooms for our patrons is one of those difficult decisions. We must balance the obvious cost concerns, both short and long term, with the potential comfort of customers. There are added issues of security, potential vandalism, and long-term durability of these facilities. In weighing the issues, staff has determined that public restrooms should be provided where they will be most warranted; have the greatest security; where regular, effective maintenance can be provided; and where costs are shared with all agencies using that facility.

Staff conducted research and gathered information from local and national operators to develop background information and specific recommendations on public restrooms. This information was presented to the Board at the meeting on August 27, 1998 to initiate discussion on this important issue. Additional discussion will continue at the September 10, 1998 Board Meeting with possible action on this issue. Staff has recommended that public restrooms be included in some of the facilities in our region based on the type of facility and criteria outlined in the attached Motion. In addition, staff recommends working with partnering agencies to determine the need and ability to incorporate public restrooms in additional multi-modal facilities.

### **Drinking Fountains**

At the Board Meeting on August 13, 1998, drinking fountains were added to the list of passenger amenities to be provided. Background information for drinking fountains was provided at the August 27, 1998 Board Meeting. Staff recommends that drinking fountains are provided in conjunction with restroom facilities, or where other uses are provided that require sewer and water utilities.

A separate motion is attached for review and possible action at the September 10, 1998 Board meeting.

## **RELEVANT BOARD POLICIES AND PREVIOUS ACTIONS TAKEN:**

- Adoption of *Sound Move*, The Ten-Year Regional Transit System Plan (May 31, 1996)
- Resolution No. 98-3 (January 22, 1998), Light Rail Consultant Contract with PSTC
- Resolution No. 98-11 (April 9, 1998)
- Executive Committee Discussion on July 17, 1998 (No action)
- Board Meeting on August 27, 1998 (Discussion)

## **KEY FEATURES:**

Staff recommendations for Station/Facility Design Issues for public restrooms and drinking fountains, as they pertain to design issues in common for all Lines of Business: Commuter Rail, Link Light Rail, and Regional Express, and in partnership with the other regional providers and jurisdictions.

## **ALTERNATIVES:**

The following alternatives are available for Board action:

1. Adopt the design policy issues as presented above and as outlined in the attached Motion after discussion of all material.
2. Adopt a portion of the design policy issues as presented above to allow design work to continue and list specific items as needing further review and/or discussion.

## **CONSEQUENCES OF DELAY:**

Agreement on the design criteria is essential to continuing the design phase for all three Lines of Business. We expect to have all the design criteria in place by the end of September 1998.

The Sounder staff is currently working with the cities and their Technical Advisory Committees to choose design teams for all stations between Tacoma and Seattle. The selection process has been completed and contracts are pending. Award of design contract is expected in September 1998 with the design period extending from September 1998 through January 1999.

Regional Express has awarded contracts for environmental review and preliminary design for several community connections and direct access improvement projects. Environmental analysis is underway and preliminary design will begin in the fall of 1998.

Link Light Rail has awarded design contracts to Puget Sound Transit Consultants (PSTC) for all stations. Conceptual design work will be completed in December 1998 with preliminary engineering finishing by December 1999.

Schedules for all three Lines of Business are based on the implementation plan adopted by *Sound Move* and allow little deviation. Delay in design criteria development will negatively affect the facility design schedule, which will negatively affect the overall construction schedule for all Lines of Business.

## **SOUND TRANSIT**

### **MOTION NO. M98-67**

A motion of the Board of the Central Puget Sound Regional Transit Authority to establish policy for station/facility design issues common to all three Lines of Business with respect to Public Restrooms and Drinking Fountains.

#### **Background:**

The three Lines of Business have been developing design elements in common to ensure all of Sound Transit will work as a unified whole and to assist in the development and maintenance of integrated systems. The goal is to establish policy and criteria that will serve all Lines of Business and work with our partnering agencies in the region. We wish to determine the common thread of design elements that applies to all facilities versus standardization throughout. This approach encourages uniformity where it is most advantageous and also allows individuality. This motion identifies policy issues for public restrooms and drinking fountains, as they relate to station/facility design. Background information, including other systems experiences, costs, and options for each of these issues, was presented to the Board on August 27, 1998 and September 10, 1998. After policy decisions are determined, specific design criteria will be drafted for designing and developing Sound Transit facilities.

#### **Motion:**

It is hereby moved by the Board of the Central Puget Sound Regional Transit Authority that the following items are adopted as policy for all three Lines of Business station/facility design:

#### **Public Restrooms:**

With respect to public restrooms, Sound Transit shall:

- A. Provide public restrooms where all or most of the following criteria are met:
  1. Where they have the greatest security, staffing is present, effective maintenance can be provided, and costs are shared with all agencies using that facility.
  2. Where staffing is already provided for activities such as concessions, customer service, service supervision, or security.
  3. Where concessions are in place and concession revenue covers the ongoing operating and maintenance expense for public restrooms.
  4. Where capital costs are not excessive and prohibitive to construct these facilities.
  
- B. Provide public restrooms, initially, with the following major investments, and work with partnering agencies to determine the need and ability to design, construct and maintain public restrooms in additional high-use stations or multi-modal facilities:
  1. Northgate Light Rail Station
  2. Bellevue Transit Center
  3. King Street Station in downtown Seattle
  4. Everett Multi-Modal Station
  5. Tacoma Dome Transit Center
  6. On board the Sounder Commuter Rail trains

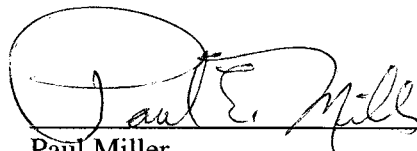
- C. In addition, Sound Transit shall:
1. Evaluate Light Rail, Multi-modal Stations and Transit Centers to determine appropriate areas to make provisions of space for self-contained or permanent future restrooms.
  2. Implement restroom facilities when funding, staffing, and maintenance arrangements can be made that do not affect Sound Transit's goal to meet budgets and schedules outlined in *Sound Move*. These arrangements may include partnerships with other agencies, funding by advertising, or other revenue sources.
  3. Consider self-contained restrooms in conjunction with other agencies, including providing space at Sound Transit facilities for these units.
  4. Predicate joint use development agreements on the need for public restrooms to be built and maintained by the developer.
  5. Strongly encourage any transit-oriented development to also provide public restrooms.
- D. All Sound Transit Public Restrooms shall:
1. Be located in a safe and secure area of the facility.
  2. Provide CCTV security in entry areas.
  3. Be constructed with durable, easily cleanable, and vandal-resistant materials, including lighting.
  4. Not conflict with the facility operations or general flow of traffic.

**Drinking Fountains:**

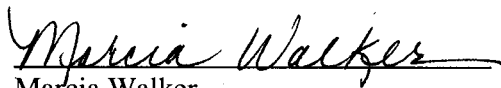
With respect to drinking fountains, Sound Transit shall:

Provide drinking fountains at facilities where water and sewer utilities will be provided for other uses, such as restrooms or concessions, and continual on-going maintenance will be possible.

Adopted by the Board of the Central Puget Sound Regional Transit Authority at a regular meeting thereof on the 10<sup>th</sup> day of September 1998.

  
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Paul Miller  
Board Chair

ATTEST:

  
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Marcia Walker  
Board Administrator