

STAFF REPORT

MOTION NO. M2001-05

Agreement with the Washington State Department of Transportation for Transit and HOV Improvements between I-90 and Newport Way on SR900 in Issaquah

Meeting:	Date:	Type of Action:	Staff Contact:	Phone:
Finance Committee	4/5/01	Deferred	Agnes Govern, Director,	(206) 398-5037
Finance Committee	4/19/01	Discussion/Possible Action to Recommend	Regional Express Jim Edwards, Program Manager, Capital Projects	(206) 398-5436
Board	4/26/01	Board Approval Action	Bill Guenzler, Project Manager, Capital Projects	(206) 398-5041

PROPOSED ACTION

Authorizes the Executive Director to execute an agreement with the Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) to provide \$7M toward a WSDOT project to construct transit and HOV improvements within the City of Issaquah on SR900 between Newport Way and I-90.

KEY FEATURES

Highlights of Proposed Action:

- ◆ Authorizes the Executive Director to execute an agreement with WSDOT to provide a total of \$7M toward construction of the SR900 transit and HOV improvements.
- ◆ Defines the specific enhancements to transit and HOV speed and reliability that Sound Transit's funds will support.
- ◆ Protects Sound Transit's investment in enhanced transit and HOV access by including a provision for Sound Transit to be compensated should WSDOT reduce the transit and HOV enhancements either during the design process or after construction of the improvements.

Discussion of Proposed Action:

Resolution No. R99-6 amended Sound Move to split the original budget for I-90 at Sunset Interchange into two separate projects:

1. I-90 at Sunset Interchange project – limiting Sound Transit's contribution to \$8M (1995\$) which included Sound Transit costs for administration and art.
2. SR900 from I-90 to the Issaquah Park-and-Ride Lot – reallocating \$8M (1995\$) to a new project which includes a contribution to construction, Sound Transit costs for administration, art, and contingency, for the construction of HOV lanes.

Resolution No. R99-6 also directed staff to bring back an agreement on a fully funded project. Motion No. M2001-05 is that agreement.

Sound Transit has worked closely with WSDOT and the City of Issaquah to improve the coordination and efficiency of highway improvements along SR900 between Newport Way and I-90. Each agency had a set of planned improvements that, if designed and constructed as individual projects, would have required a much longer time to construct and would have involved not only a substantial duplication of effort, but also investment in unnecessary interim improvements. Instead of having each jurisdiction construct separate projects, WSDOT will take the lead for constructing an integrated project that accomplishes the goals of all three agencies for less money, earlier completion, and with fewer impacts on traffic during construction. The estimated cost of the improvements to SR900 from I-90 to SE 78th Street is ~~\$18.5M~~18.3M.

Through a pending three-party agreement between WSDOT, the City of Issaquah, and Intracorp East LLC (a private housing developer), WSDOT expects Intracorp to contribute approximately \$4.2M in developer impact fees towards this integrated project. Intracorp's \$4.2M of funding for the WSDOT integrated project would be in lieu of Intracorp performing the same work previously planned to comply with concurrency requirements. The City of Issaquah is waiting for Sound Transit to commit its funds toward the integrated project before altering Intracorp's concurrency requirements. WSDOT has budgeted funds for environmental evaluations and design. WSDOT has proposed that the 2001 Legislature fund the balance of the project in the 2001-03 biennium. The contribution being made by Sound Transit and the private developer should increase the probability of the Legislature's approval.

Sound Transit's \$7M contribution will be earmarked for only those portions of the integrated project that provide enhanced transit and HOV speed and reliability. Payments would be due and payable to WSDOT in two equal payments of \$3.5 million. The first payment is due when the construction contract is signed by WSDOT, and the second payment is due during construction in the year 2003.

Sound Move included direction that Sound Transit staff "seek to specify how [Sound Transit] will be compensated [by WSDOT] if the advantages to transit created by its investment are reduced" (Sound Move, Ten-Year Regional Transit System Plan, p. 13). Accordingly, the proposed agreement provides for WSDOT to compensate Sound Transit for its investment if changes to the design of the facility prior to construction reduce the transit or HOV benefits, or if future operational or physical changes reduce the transit or HOV benefits.

BUDGET

The following table shows the available budget for this project as it relates to expenditures, commitments, and the impact of this action. This action provides for a Sound Transit contribution of \$7M (YOES) toward WSDOT's construction of a set of transit and HOV improvements along SR900 between Newport Way and I-90. The terms of the Memorandum of Agreement with WSDOT are consistent with the project budget assumptions. The table shows that the 2001 Adopted Budget includes sufficient budget for this effort and committing these funds will not endanger any other project elements that are to be funded out of the respective elements of the budget.

This project was created using funding from the I-90 Sunset Interchange HOV project (Resolution No. R99-6).

	Total Project Budget	Budget for Construction (A)	Construction Expenditures to Date ⁽²⁾ (B)	Total Amount Requested (C)	Budget Remaining (A-[B+C])
2001 Adopted Budget ⁽¹⁾	<u>\$10,076,000</u>	<u>\$7,022,000</u>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$7,000,000</u>	<u>\$22,000</u>
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All figures shown are in year-of-expenditure (YOE\$).

(1) Lifetime budget amount for construction in accordance with the Adopted 2001 Budget per Resolution No. R2000-17. Reference page 181 of the 2001 Proposed Budget document, project number 166.

(2) Life-to-date expenditures and outstanding commitments for construction, through February 28, 2001, excluding this proposed action.

ALTERNATIVES

The Board could decide not to take action on the proposed agreement at this time or to redirect staff to work on funding a different set of improvements within this subarea.

CONSEQUENCES OF DELAY

The City of Issaquah is waiting to release Intracorp from some concurrency requirements until the Board formally acts to commit funds to this project. Substantial delay in approving the proposed action could jeopardize the commitment of other funding partners to participate in the integrated project.

REGIONAL PARTNERSHIP AND COOPERATION

The integrated approach to improvements along SR900 would not have been possible without close coordination between staff from public agencies – WSDOT, the City of Issaquah, and Sound Transit, as well as Intracorp East LLC.

Transit and HOV access to the Issaquah Park-and-Ride Lot will be substantially improved and the contribution of other partners will lower traffic congestion levels consistent with Issaquah service standards.

PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

The City of Issaquah has been lead on an extensive public forum dealing with the proposed East Village development and the City's need to manage traffic growth in the SR900 corridor, including:

- Two public hearings on the East Village Master Plat and development proposal.
- Numerous City Council Committee Workshops regarding East Village.
- Public meetings of the Planning Policy Advisory Committee, Urban Village Advisory Committee, and Risers and Streams Advisory Committee.
- A story in the citywide newsletter.
- A transportation open house in January 2000

WSDOT will take lead on the public process relating to the environmental assessment, however the public meeting has not yet been scheduled.

SOUND TRANSIT

MOTION NO. M2001-05

A motion of the Board of the Central Puget Sound Regional Transit Authority authorizing the Executive Director to execute an agreement with the Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) to provide \$7M toward a WSDOT project to construct transit and HOV improvements within the City of Issaquah on SR900 between Newport Way and I-90.

Background:

In 1999, the Board adopted Resolution No. R99-6 amending Sound Move to split the original budget for I-90 at Sunset Interchange into two separate projects: (1) the I-90 at Sunset Interchange project and (2) a new project that would contribute funds toward the construction of HOV lanes on SR900 from I-90 to the Issaquah Park-and-Ride Lot. Resolution No. R99-6 also directed staff to bring back an agreement on a fully funded project. Motion No. M2001-05 is that agreement. Sound Transit has worked closely with WSDOT and the City of Issaquah to improve the coordination and efficiency of highway improvements along SR900 between Newport Way and I-90.

The estimated cost of the improvements to SR900 from I-90 to SE 78th Street is \$18.3M. Sound Transit's \$7M contribution will be earmarked for only those portions of the integrated project that provide enhanced transit and HOV speed and reliability.


Motion:

It is hereby moved by the Board of the Central Puget Sound Regional Transit Authority that the Executive Director is authorized to execute an agreement with WSDOT providing \$7M for the construction of transit and HOV improvements to SR900 between I-90 and Newport Way in Issaquah and providing for compensation to Sound Transit should WSDOT reduce transit or HOV benefits of the aforementioned improvements.

APPROVED by the Board of Directors of the Central Puget Sound Regional Transit Authority at a regular meeting thereof held on the 26th day of April, 2001.


David Earling
Board Chair

ATTEST:


Marcia Walker
Board Administrator