

STAFF REPORT

SOUND TRANSIT MOTION NO. M2001-29

Agreement between Sound Transit and the City of Bellevue to Establish a Cooperative Relationship Regarding Funding and Construction of an HOV Direct Access Ramp and other Interrelated Improvements

Meeting:	Date:	Type of Action:	Staff Contact:	Phone:
Executive Committee	4/6/01	Discussion/Possible Action to Recommend Board Approval	Agnes Govern, Director, Regional Express	(206)398-5037
Board of Directors	4/12/01	Action	Jim Edwards, Program Manager, Capital Projects Bill Guenzler, Project Manager, Capital Projects	(206)398-5436 (206)398-5041

PROPOSED ACTION

Approval of Motion No. M2001-29 would authorize the Executive Director to enter into an agreement with the City of Bellevue establishing the roles and responsibilities in funding and construction of several interrelated road and highway improvements. Together, these improvements (the Bellevue HOV Direct Access Project) will allow buses and carpools direct access from I-405 to the Downtown Bellevue Transit Center.

KEY FEATURES

Highlights of Proposed Action:

- ◆ Establishes an interagency financial plan for funding costs of building the Bellevue HOV Direct Access Project.
- ◆ Provides for a Sound Transit funding share that is within the board-adopted project budget. Sound Transit Board will review and have the opportunity to approve or reject all future proposed contract funding commitments in future Board actions.
- ◆ Establishes the City of Bellevue's intent to assist Sound Transit with the administrative process of establishing land bank credits under Sound Transit/WSDOT Land Bank Agreement of July 2000.

Discussion of Proposed Action:

In March 2001, staff briefed the Board on the status of the Bellevue HOV Direct Access Project. At that time, staff indicated that Sound Transit and the City of Bellevue were working on an inter-jurisdictional funding plan for the project. The proposed action would establish a financial plan for funding future contracts for designing and constructing the project.

The Bellevue HOV Direct Access Project, included in Sound Move, is a series of inter-related improvements to the highway system as well as to arterial streets in downtown Bellevue. The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) has approved the Record of Decision for the Bellevue

HOV Direct Access Project, and FHWA accepted an additional freeway access at NE 6th Street. Through separate action, the first phase (SE 8th Street Interchange Improvements) has been designed and approved for construction by the FHWA. The next phases of this project will spread the northbound and southbound lanes and install an HOV ramp between the directions of travel, which will then connect to NE 6th Street east of the Bellevue Transit Center. In order to spread the lanes, the existing freeway interchanges (NE 4th and NE 8th) need to be removed and replaced.

Sound Transit and the City of Bellevue are contributing funds to modify street intersections at the ramp terminals to complement the freeway modifications and to provide longer structures that allow two more lanes to be added to I-405 in the future. The proposed agreement would establish roles, responsibilities, and a specific plan for funding participation by Sound Transit and the City of Bellevue (the project's two main funding partners). WSDOT is not a party to the agreement because formal approval of the State's anticipated \$10M contribution is awaiting final action by the State Legislature.

Design and right-of-way acquisitions are expected to be complete on this project in mid-2002. Construction is expected to start on the first phase (SE 8th Interchange improvements) in July 2001, and construction of the second phase (improvements at NE 4th, NE 6th, and NE 8th interchanges) will span 2002 through 2005.

BUDGET

This agreement does not authorize any specific expenditure or commitment of agency resources. Rather, the agreement establishes a plan for Sound Transit and the City of Bellevue to fund a set of interrelated improvements included in Sound Move and detailed in a Final Environmental Impact Statement (endorsed by the FHWA through a Record of Decision). Sound Transit's planned funding share is within the Board's currently adopted project budget for the Bellevue HOV Direct Access Project.

The current cost estimate for the overall project is approximately \$164M. Sound Transit's planned contribution of \$102.5M is one of the main funding sources for completing this project. The City of Bellevue and WSDOT will also be significant funding partners. The City of Bellevue will contribute approximately \$52M and the State Legislature is expected to contribute approximately \$10M.

The agreement establishes a financial plan for funding the anticipated costs of upcoming contracts through completion of the project and details the expected financial participation by agency (Sound Transit's financial share along with the City of Bellevue and projected State funding). The financial plan is based on currently projected costs, schedules, and anticipated revenues. The agreement also establishes roles, responsibilities, and methodologies for revising the plan using the latest available project data.

The Board will have an opportunity to review and approve each major contract anticipated in the plan prior to authorizing the final commitment of funding or other agency resources.

The following is a summary of the planned financial participation by project phase and by partnering agency:

Project Phase	Sound Transit	City of Bellevue	WSDOT	Total
Administration	\$ 4	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 4
PE/ED	3	7	-	10
Final Design	4	9	2	15
ROW	9	4	-	13
Construction	78	22	8	109
Contingency	5	9	-	14
Total Project Estimate	\$ 103	\$ 52	\$ 10	\$ 164

All figures shown are in YOES\$ in millions. The numbers shown above have been rounded to the nearest million; the rounding methodology used may cause apparent variances between the detail and the summary.

The Sound Transit 2001 Adopted Budget includes \$106.5M for this project. As shown in the table above, Sound Transit plans to commit \$102.5M to the project; the remaining \$4M will be held in reserve for uncertainties such as potential changes in projected inflation.

RESPONSIBILITIES

Project Segment	Lead for Design	Lead for ROW	Lead for Construction	Status/Phase
NE 8th/116th Ave.	City of Bellevue	City of Bellevue	City of Bellevue	Condemnation/Final Design
NE 2nd/112 - 114th Ave.	City of Bellevue	City of Bellevue	City of Bellevue	Final Design
NE 112th/8 - 12th St.	City of Bellevue	WSDOT/ST	WSDOT/ST	Pre-design
SE 8th St. Interchange	WSDOT	WSDOT/ST	WSDOT/ST	Ad. in April 2001
NE 4th/6th/ Interchanges Pending	WSDOT/ST	WSDOT/ST	WSDOT/ST	Final Design

ALTERNATIVES

Considerable resources have been invested in the preliminary engineering, environmental approvals, and design and construction of the first phase. Alternatives to agreeing to a plan for funding the design and construction of the project are somewhat limited:

- Delay the execution of the agreement with the City of Bellevue.
- Cancel or modify the Bellevue HOV Direct Access Project.

CONSEQUENCES OF DELAY

The project has passed several milestones including the Record of Decision by the FHWA. Delaying the funding plan at this point in the development process would delay the schedule beyond the timeframe of the ten-year transit plan, delay the benefits of the project, and jeopardize funding from partners.

REGIONAL PARTNERSHIP AND COOPERATION

This project involves the City of Bellevue, King County Metro, WSDOT, and the FHWA. The project provides benefits to general-purpose traffic and will receive considerable financial support from grants, City of Bellevue, and WSDOT. Bellevue will finance design and construction of related improvements on the city street system. WSDOT will direct the final design and construction, and the Washington State Legislature will provide \$10M toward project costs in addition to the funding approved by the Transportation Improvement Board.

PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

A scoping meeting was held on March 22, 1994. There have been four open houses, one public hearing, and numerous meetings before the Bellevue City Council and Bellevue Transportation Commission. The staff has provided several newsletters as well as on-going information in Bellevue's "It's Your City" newsletter that is mailed to every address in Bellevue. The final EIS was published by the FHWA in the Federal Register a notice of availability was published twice in local newspapers in November of 2000.

The City of Bellevue also holds monthly meetings with an advisory committee including two city council members and representatives of the community and business groups. This committee is expected to meet for the duration of the project providing advice on managing construction impacts and communicating with the public.

LEGAL REVIEW

JB 3-21-01

SOUND TRANSIT

MOTION NO. M2001-29

A motion of the Board of the Central Puget Sound Regional Transit Authority which authorizes the Executive Director to execute an agreement with the City of Bellevue Establishing a Cooperative Relationship Regarding Funding and Construction of the Bellevue HOV Direct Access Project.

Background:

Approval of Motion No. M2001-29 would authorize the Executive Director to enter into an agreement with the City of Bellevue establishing the roles and responsibilities in funding and construction of several interrelated road and highway improvements. Together, these improvements (the Bellevue HOV Direct Access Project) will allow buses and carpools direct access from I-405 to the Downtown Bellevue Transit Center.

In March 2001, staff presented a briefing to the Board about status of the Bellevue HOV Direct Access project. At that time, staff indicated that Sound Transit and the City of Bellevue were working on an inter-jurisdictional funding plan for the project. This agreement establishes that financial plan for funding future contracts for designing and constructing the project.

This agreement does not authorize any specific expenditure or commitment of agency resources. Rather, the agreement endorses a plan for Sound Transit and the City of Bellevue to fund a set of interrelated improvements included in Sound Move and detailed in a Final Environmental Impact Statement (endorsed by the Federal Highway Administration through a Record of Decision). Sound Transit's planned funding share is within the Board's currently adopted project budget for the Bellevue HOV Direct Access Project.

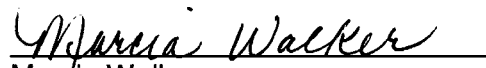
Motion:

It is hereby moved by the Board of the Central Puget Sound Regional Transit Authority that the Executive Director be authorized to execute an agreement with the City of Bellevue establishing a financial plan for designing and constructing the Bellevue HOV Direct Access Project.

APPROVED by the Board of the Central Puget Sound Regional Transit Authority at a regular meeting thereof held on the 12th day of April 2001.


David Earling
Board Chair

ATTEST:


Mardia Walker
Board Administrator