

**SOUND TRANSIT
STAFF REPORT**

MOTION NO. M2002-67

Regional Transportation Investment District Planning Process

Meeting:	Date:	Type of Action:	Staff Contact:	Phone:
Board	5/9/02	Action	Joni Earl, Executive Director	(206) 398-5450

OBJECTIVE OF ACTION

- Authorize the Board Chair to appoint three Board members, one from each county, to serve as liaisons to the three-county Planning Committee developing a Regional Transportation Investment District (RTID) Plan and direct staff to participate in and support that planning process in order to facilitate a Board decision by July 25, 2002, on whether to release some or all of its HCT tax authority to the RTID for the purpose of presenting a ballot measure to the region's voters.

ACTION

- Authorize the Board Chair to appoint three Board members, one from each county, to serve as Sound Transit liaisons to the Regional Transit Investment District (RTID) Planning Committee and to represent Sound Transit's interests during the development of a RTID Plan.
- Direct staff to participate in and support Board involvement in the development of a Draft Regional Transportation Investment District Plan and to report regularly to the Board on the status and issues associated with that planning effort.
- Direct staff to facilitate a Board decision by July 25, 2002, on whether to release some or all of its HCT tax authority to the RTID for purposes of presenting a set of HCT investments to the region's voters as part of a broader RTID ballot measure.

KEY FEATURES

- Authorizes the Board Chair to appoint three Board members to serve as liaisons to the three-county Planning Committee established to develop a Regional Transit Investment District (RTID) Plan, as authorized by RTID legislation (E2SSB 6140) approved by the Washington State Legislature and signed by Governor Gary Locke.
- Directs the Executive Director to provide the agency resources necessary for Sound Transit to participate fully in the three-county planning process focused on developing a RTID Plan.
- Directs the Board liaisons and the Executive Director to update the Board on the status of the planning effort and the issues and implications associated with the HCT investment packages (i.e., specific projects and tax levels) being considered, including:
 - Their conformity with high capacity criteria established by RCW 81.104.
 - The projected revenues that would be generated by the proposed HCT tax level(s).
 - The effect of the projects/tax levels on Sound Transit's timing/financial capacity for a future Phase 2 program.

- Directs the Executive Director to coordinate with other planning staff on the development of specific projects that would be funded by HCT taxes and public outreach activities designed to solicit public input on the RTID proposal.
- Directs the Executive Director to facilitate a decision by the Board by July 25, 2002, on whether to release its HCT taxes to the RTID, in accordance with the timeline and process established for the development of a RTID Final Draft Plan.

BUDGET IMPACT SUMMARY

Not applicable.

M/W/DBE – SMALL BUSINESS PARTICIPATION

Not applicable.

HISTORY OF PROJECT

In 2002, the Washington State Legislature passed, and the Governor signed, legislation (E2SSB 6140) that allows the creation of a Regional Transportation Investment District (RTID) in the Central Puget Sound region. The RTID legislation provided funding mechanisms for implementing a regional transportation investment plan, subject to a public vote.

The legislation provides for the development of a common ballot measure with Sound Transit. Specifically, it permits the RTID to impose two of the taxes authorized to regional transit authorities -- the sales and use tax and the special motor vehicle excise tax (MVET) – to the extent that they have not already been imposed by Sound Transit. The legislation specifies that the RTID may only impose HCT taxes with the explicit approval of the regional transit authority. In essence, Sound Transit would release some or all of its tax authority to the RTID. This action would be considered a major decision of the Board, as defined in RCW 81.112.

If the Sound Transit Board were to release some or all of its tax authority to an RTID, the RTID would be the entity putting the HCT taxes and projects before the voters as part of a common ballot measure along with a broader RTID transportation investment plan. The HCT taxes would be the domain of the RTID, not Sound Transit and, as such:

- Would be subject to voter approval within the RTID district, not just within the Sound Transit district.
- The increment of HCT taxes imposed as part of the RTID vote would be collected countywide, not just within the Sound Transit district.
- The HCT program of projects included in the RTID ballot measure – and approved by the voters – would not constitute Phase 2, as defined in Sound Transit's Resolution No 72 (financial policies) or Resolution No. 75 (Sound Move).
- Collection and expenditures of any HCT taxes imposed by an RTID must be determined by agreement between the participating counties (or RTID Board) and Sound Transit. If the ballot measure fails, Sound Transit regains the authority to impose those taxes with the approval of the voters residing within the Sound Transit district boundary.

Subsequent to the passage of this legislation, the county executives from King, Pierce and Snohomish Counties directed their staff to initiate a process designed to facilitate coordinated planning and analysis with the objective of developing a balanced, three-county proposal.

Sound Transit staff assisted that planning process by answering questions from county staff regarding potential HCT projects that might be included in a RTID proposal.

Subsequently, on May 2, 2002, Snohomish County Executive Bob Drewel, Pierce County Executive John Ladenburg and King County Executive Ron Sims presented a Tri-County Executives' Proposed Regional Transportation Plan to Sound Transit's Executive Committee. The Executive Committee directed staff to prepare this motion, for the Board's consideration on May 9, 2002.

**Prior Board or Committee Actions
and Relevant Board Policies**

Motion or Resolution Number	Summary of Action	Date of Action
	No actions have been taken.	

CONSEQUENCES OF DELAY

The proposed schedule for developing a RTID Plan is extremely short. If the counties want to develop a plan for voter consideration by November 2002, the Sound Transit Board would need to decide by late July whether or not to release any or all of its HCT tax authority to the RTID.

REGIONAL PARTNERSHIP AND COOPERATION

Extensive regional cooperation and coordination has taken place between the staffs of the King, Pierce and Snohomish County executives and the professional transportation staffs of each county, and the Washington State Department of Transportation. Sound Transit staff have assisted this planning effort by answering questions from county staff regarding potential HCT projects that could be included as part a broad, balanced RTID plan.

PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

Not applicable.

LEGAL REVIEW

JW 5/8/02

SOUND TRANSIT

MOTION NO. M2002-67

A motion of the Board of the Central Puget Sound Regional Transit Authority authorizing the Board Chair to appoint three Board members, one from each county, to serve as liaisons to the three-county Planning Committee developing a Regional Transportation Investment District (RTID) Plan, and directing the Executive Director to participate in and support that planning process, in order to facilitate a Board decision by July 25, 2002, on whether to release some or all of its HCT tax authority to the RTID for the purpose of presenting a ballot measure to the region's voters.

Background:

In 2002, the Washington State Legislature passed, and the Governor signed, legislation that allows the creation of a Regional Transportation Investment District (RTID) in the Central Puget Sound Region. The RTID legislation also provided funding mechanisms for implementing a regional transportation investment plan, subject to a public vote.

The legislation provides for the development of a common ballot measure with Sound Transit. Specifically, it permits the RTID to impose two of the high capacity transit taxes authorized to regional transit authorities – the sales and use tax and the special motor vehicle excise tax (MVET) – to the extent that they have not already been imposed by Sound Transit. The legislation specifies that the RTID may only impose HCT taxes with the explicit approval of the Sound Transit Board. In essence, Sound Transit would release some or all of its tax authority to the RTID and the RTID would put the HCT taxes and projects before the voters as part of a common ballot measure along with a broader RTID investment plan.


Subsequent to the passage of this legislation, the county executives from King, Pierce and Snohomish Counties directed their staff to initiate a process designed to facilitate coordinated planning and analysis with the objective of developing a balanced, three-county proposal. Sound Transit staff assisted in that planning process by answering questions from county staff regarding potential HCT projects that might be included in a RTID proposal.

On May 2, 2002, Snohomish County Executive Bob Drewel, Pierce County Executive John Ladenburg, and King County Executive Ron Sims presented a Tri-County Executives' Proposed Regional Transportation Plan to Sound Transit's Executive Committee, which directed staff to prepare this motion, for the Board's consideration.

Motion:

It is hereby moved by the Board of the Central Puget Sound Regional Transit Authority that the Board Chair is authorized to appoint three Board members, one from each county, to serve as liaisons and represent the agency's interests in the three-county Regional Transit Investment District (RTID) Planning Committee developing a RTID Plan, and that the Executive Director is directed to provide the agency resources necessary to support full participation in that planning process, in order to facilitate a Board decision by July 25, 2002, on whether to release some or all of its high capacity transit tax authority to the Regional Transit Investment District for the purpose of presenting a ballot measure to the region's voters.

APPROVED by the Board of the Central Puget Sound Regional Transit Authority at a regular meeting thereof held on May 9, 2002.



Ron Sims
Board Chair

ATTEST:



Marcia Walker
Board Administrator