

**SOUND TRANSIT  
STAFF REPORT**

**MOTION NO. M2003-128**

**Conduct further study of a North Link modified Montlake route**

<b>Meeting:</b>	<b>Date:</b>	<b>Type of Action:</b>	<b>Staff Contact:</b>	<b>Phone:</b>
Board Meeting	12/11/03	Discussion/Possible Action	Ahmad Fazel, Link Director <b>Ron Endlich, North Link Program Manager</b>	(206) 398-5389 (206) 398-5141

<b>Contract/Agreement Type:</b>	✓	<b>Requested Action:</b>	✓
Competitive Procurement		Execute New Contract/Agreement	
Sole Source		Amend Existing Contract/Agreement	
Interlocal Agreement		Contingency Funds Required	
Purchase/Sale Agreement		Budget Amendment Required	

<sup>3</sup>Applicable to proposed transaction.

**OBJECTIVE OF ACTION**

To conduct further engineering and environmental study of a promising North Link modified Montlake route in the University District to bring it to a similar level of detail as the Montlake route for future consideration by the Sound Transit Board.

**ACTION**

Authorizes staff to conduct additional study of a modified Montlake route for future Board consideration as part of the North Link Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement process, including additional engineering and cost estimating work, environmental analysis, continued coordination with the University of Washington, and additional community outreach efforts.

**KEY FEATURES**

- Authorizes staff to conduct further study of a minor variation of the Montlake route included in the North Link Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement. The consideration of this modified Montlake route was requested by the University of Washington as a promising alignment that mitigates potential vibration and electro-magnetic field (EMF) impacts to the Rainier Vista research corridor while preserving the attractive advantages of the original Montlake route.
- Authorizes staff to complete additional engineering and cost estimating work, environmental analysis, continue on-going coordination with the University of Washington, and conduct additional community outreach efforts. Staff will brief the Board and the public on the results of this work and will determine how to best incorporate this modified route into the current SEIS process.

## **BUDGET IMPACT SUMMARY**

There is no action outside of the Board-adopted budget; there are no contingency funds required, no subarea impacts, or funding required from other parties other than what is already assumed in the financial plan.

## **BUDGET DISCUSSION**

The work described by this action will be performed by Sound Transit staff, and consultants Parametrix, Inc. and Puget Sound Transit Consultants (PSTC). This work can be performed within the current approved not-to-exceed contract values for these two consultants, and no additional budget is required. The expected cost of this work is approximately \$125,000 to \$175,000.

## **REVENUE, SUBAREA, AND FINANCIAL PLAN IMPACTS**

The proposed action is consistent with the current Board-adopted budget and is affordable within the agency's current long-term financial plan and subarea financial capacity. The action will have no new revenue impacts on Sound Transit.

## **M/W/DBE – SMALL BUSINESS PARTICIPATION**

Not applicable for this action.

## **HISTORY OF PROJECT**

On September 27, 2001, the Sound Transit Board adopted Motion No. M2001-104 directing the Executive Director to evaluate Central Link Light Rail routes and station alternatives between Convention Place and Northgate. On February 14, 2002, the Board identified route alternatives for inclusion and study in the North Link Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (SEIS) and excluded less promising route alternatives from further study per Motion No. M2002-13.

On May 23, 2002, the Board approved Motion No. M2002-69 that authorized staff to discontinue study of the Capitol Hill via Convention Place Station route and modify the Montlake route under study in the Draft SEIS.

On March 13, 2003, the Board approved Motion No. M2003 -33 that directed staff to complete additional work on North Link route alternatives including additional engineering studies, third party discussions and other activities to provide the Board with more comprehensive information for its North Link route decision-making process. On-going coordination activities with the University of Washington addressing University District route and station issues were a major component of those third party discussions. The results of the Board requested work have been incorporated into the preparation of the North Link Draft SEIS.

The North Link Draft SEIS was published on November 21, 2003. A 70-day public comment period will close on January 30, 2004.

Sound Transit and University of Washington staff have worked together throughout the preparation of the Draft SEIS. In addition, several members of the University of Washington Board of Regents and Sound Transit Board have also met on a quarterly basis to review North Link progress. The most recent joint board member meetings were held on October 9, 2003 and December 1, 2003.

At the December 1 meeting, consideration of a minor variation of the Montlake route was discussed. A letter from the University of Washington dated December 5, 2003, formally requested the study of this modified Montlake route as a promising option to the original Montlake route. This proposed motion was prepared in response to this request.

The modified Montlake tunnel route would cross under the Montlake Cut and continue north under the University campus east of Montlake Boulevard to an underground station near Husky Stadium. The tunnel route would continue northwest under the north central campus and east of Rainier Vista to the Brooklyn station site just north of NE 45<sup>th</sup> Street. This modified route is intended to mitigate potential vibration and EMF impacts to the science and engineering research corridor while preserving the attractive advantages of the original Montlake route.

An initial assessment of the feasibility of the modified Montlake route suggests that it is quite promising. Staff therefore seeks approval to conduct additional engineering and cost estimating work and environmental analysis for this route. Sound Transit and University staff will continue on-going review and coordination activities. Additional community outreach activities will also be completed.

Sound Transit staff will report back to the Board and public on the results of the work. Staff will also determine how to best incorporate the modified Montlake route into the current SEIS process.

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

<b>Motion or Resolution Number</b>	<b>Summary of Action</b>	<b>Date of Action</b>
M2001-104	Directed the Executive Director to evaluate Central Link Light Rail routes and station alternatives between Convention Place and Northgate (North Link Work Program).	9/27/01
M2002-13	Selected the route alternatives to be studied in the North Link Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (Draft SEIS) and deleted other route alternatives from further study.	2/14/02
M2002-69	Discontinued study of a North Link Capitol Hill route with Convention Place Station and modified a University District route under study in the North Link Draft SEIS.	5/23/02
M2003-33	Directed staff to complete additional work on North Link route alternatives in order to provide the Board with more comprehensive information for its North Link route decision-making process.	3/13/03

**CONSEQUENCES OF DELAY**

Completing this additional work will assist the Board in its decision-making process. Delaying this work could delay subsequent Board reviews and actions.

## **PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT**

Sound Transit staff have held a number of station design workshops and meetings with property owners, neighborhood groups and interested parties throughout the North Link study area as part of the environmental and conceptual engineering work completed to date. A 70-day public comment period is now underway for the North Link Draft SEIS. Public open houses/hearings are scheduled for January 7 and 8, 2004. Additional public outreach efforts for the modified route will be undertaken as part of the study, if the motion is approved.

## **LEGAL REVIEW**

PW 12/08/03

## **SOUND TRANSIT**

### **MOTION NO. M2003-128**

A motion of the Board of the Central Puget Sound Regional Transit Authority authorizing staff to conduct additional study of a modified Montlake route for future Board consideration as part of the North Link Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement process, including additional engineering and cost estimating work, environmental analysis, continued coordination with the University of Washington, and additional community outreach efforts.

#### **Background:**

On September 27, 2001, the Sound Transit Board adopted Motion No. M2001-104 directing the Executive Director to evaluate Central Link Light Rail routes and station alternatives between Convention Place and Northgate. On February 14, 2002, the Board identified route alternatives for inclusion and study in the North Link Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (Draft SEIS) and excluded less promising route alternatives from further study per Motion No. M2002-13.

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intended to mitigate potential vibration and EMF impacts to the science and engineering research corridor while preserving the attractive advantages of the original Montlake route.

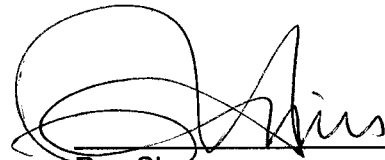
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**Motion:**

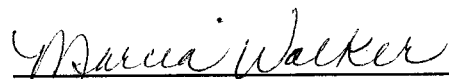
It is hereby moved by the Board of the Central Puget Sound Regional Transit Authority that staff is authorized to conduct additional study of a modified Montlake route for future Board consideration as part of the North Link Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement process, including additional engineering and cost estimating work, environmental analysis, continued coordination with the University of Washington, and additional community outreach efforts.

APPROVED by the Board of the Central Puget Sound Regional Transit Authority at a regular meeting thereof held on December 11, 2003.



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Ron Sims  
Board Chair

ATTEST:



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Marcia Walker  
Board Administrator