

SOUND TRANSIT

RESOLUTION NO. R2007-05

A RESOLUTION of the Board of the Central Puget Sound Regional Transit Authority adopting the Sound Transit 2 Regional Transit System Plan for the Central Puget Sound, together with its related Appendices.

WHEREAS, the Central Puget Sound Regional Transit Authority, hereinafter referred to as Sound Transit, has been created for the Pierce, King, and Snohomish County region by action of their respective county councils pursuant to RCW 81.112.030; and

WHEREAS, Sound Transit is the designated provider of high-capacity transportation infrastructure and services to meet regional public transportation needs in the central Puget Sound area, and it possesses all of the powers set forth in Chapters 81.104 and 81.112 RCW, including the power to plan for and implement a high-capacity transportation system; and

WHEREAS, in 1996 the Sound Transit Board adopted and the voters of the Sound Transit district approved local funding for *Sound Move*, the first phase plan for a high-capacity transportation system in the Central Puget Sound region; and

WHEREAS, *Sound Move* included the development of Link light rail, Sounder commuter rail, ST Express bus, and the necessary supporting services and facilities; and

WHEREAS, Sound Transit has now largely completed project planning for and has built, is building, or has under design most of the first phase projects identified in *Sound Move*; and

WHEREAS, at the same time that *Sound Move* was adopted in 1996, the Sound Transit Board also adopted the Regional Transit Long-Range Vision as the agency's statement of goals, policies and strategies to guide long-range development of the regional high-capacity transportation system; and

WHEREAS, following a rigorous planning process, appropriate environmental review, development of issue papers, extensive agency and public outreach, involvement, and comment, Sound Transit updated its long-range vision by Resolution No. R2005-14 (July 7,

2005), which adopted the Regional Transit Long-Range Plan, affirming Sound Transit's commitment to a high-capacity transportation system built on a regional spine of Link light rail from Tacoma to Seattle to Everett, with a direct light-rail connection to east King County; and

WHEREAS, the July 2005 Long-Range Plan represents Sound Transit's policy and strategic guide for future development of a regional high-capacity transportation system, and it provides the basis for defining the next phase of high-capacity transportation investments for implementing the Long-Range Plan (known as "Sound Transit 2" or "ST2"); and

WHEREAS, said Long-Range Plan responded to updated local and regional transportation and land-use plans, and it identified projects and established Sound Transit's priorities for Sound Transit 2; and

WHEREAS, the environmental review process for the Long-Range Plan included expanded scoping and public involvement, preparation of a draft supplemental environmental impact statement (EIS) (December, 2004), public and agency review and comment, responses to comments, and preparation of a final supplemental EIS (June 2005), all pursuant to the State Environmental Policy Act and Sound Transit Resolution No. R7-1; and

WHEREAS, the final supplemental EIS for the Long-Range Plan built on and supplemented the 1993 EIS on the Regional Transit System Plan, addressed newly available information on existing environmental conditions, and evaluated the environmental impacts of, and potential mitigation measures for, implementing the Long-Range Plan and alternatives, including the development and implementation of Sound Transit 2; and

WHEREAS, in January 2006, the State Legislature required Sound Transit and the Regional Transportation Investment District ("RTID") to present a joint ballot of regional investments to the voters in November, 2007; and

WHEREAS, Sound Transit and the RTID have been working together on a combined Roads & Transit ballot, conducting joint public outreach, and demonstrating the benefits of an integrated investment package; and

WHEREAS, since the time the Long-Range Plan was adopted in 2005, Sound Transit has established priorities and evaluated projects for Sound Transit 2; and

WHEREAS, the history and background of that planning process and Sound Transit's work with the public, agencies, and communities throughout the region on ST2 is summarized in various agency motions and resolutions on high-capacity transportation system planning, including Motion No. M2006-03 (January 12, 2006) and Resolution Nos. R2006-15 (July 13, 2006) and R2007-01 (January 11, 2007); and

WHEREAS, Resolution No. R2007-01 identified a Sound Transit 2 Draft Package for public outreach and for agency review and comment; and

WHEREAS, the Sound Transit 2 Draft Package was submitted to the Sound Transit Expert Review Panel, consistent with RCW 81.104.110, and to the Puget Sound Regional Council (PSRC), for a preliminary conformity review as prescribed by statute; and

WHEREAS, the Sound Transit 2 Draft Package was broadly distributed through direct mail, advertising, speakers bureaus, web-based outreach and general outreach that included five public meetings/open houses held jointly with the RTID focused on Roads & Transit; and

WHEREAS, Sound Transit received approximately 5,000 public comments and survey responses in the fall of 2006 and approximately 3,000 more in February and March 2007, and staff provided the Board with summaries of the major themes and verbatim copies of the written comments, including a staff briefing at the Board Workshop on March 29, with an additional briefing on April 12; and

WHEREAS, the Board has taken such public and agency input into account in preparing the ST2 plan; and

WHEREAS, at a Board Workshop on March 29, 2007, the Board was briefed on proposed changes to the agency's financial policies that had been reviewed and recommended by its Finance Committee, and the Board was briefed on additional financial information

developed by staff regarding federal funding assumptions and fare revenues for the ST2 plan;
and

WHEREAS, based on the new financial information, which resulted in additional financial capacity for the ST2 plan, and on public comments received, at its workshop the Board developed a number of consensus changes to the ST2 Draft Package, including completing the light-rail extension south from the Fife/Port of Tacoma area all of the way to the Tacoma Dome Station, adding an extension to the light-rail line from the Lynnwood Transit Center to 164th Street/Ash Way, adding certain planning studies to assess future high-capacity transportation system expansion options, and designating the Sounder commuter-rail line in Pierce County south of the DuPont station as eligible for extension with partners outside of the Sound Transit district; and

WHEREAS, at the Board meeting on April 12, 2007, the Board reviewed a revised ST2 plan and appendices, including updated financial information reflecting the consensus package, and discussed potential amendments to said plan; and

WHEREAS, on April 12 the Board also received additional public input, a report from the Expert Review Panel with the panel's latest findings and letter report, and a report from the Sound Transit Citizen Oversight Panel, which reviewed and commented on the ST2 plan; and

WHEREAS, at the Board meeting on April 26, 2007, the Board received additional public comment on the ST2 plan and then considered and adopted more than a dozen amendments to the ST2 plan by Motion No. M2007-46; and

WHEREAS, Motion No. M2007-46 also authorized the Chief Executive Officer to revise and finalize the ST2 plan documents consistent with the Board's amendments, to submit the final package of transportation investment identified in the revised ST2 plan to the Puget Sound Regional Council for the conformity review required by state law, and to prepare this Resolution for the Board's final adoption of the ST2 plan; and

WHEREAS, the Chief Executive Officer and staff have revised and prepared a final ST2 plan consistent with such Board directions and amendments, and have updated the plan documents to reflect the Board's decisions, including updated project lists, plan text, financial information, maps and appendices, and that package is ready for final adoption as the ST2 Regional Transit System Plan (or "ST2 Plan"); and

WHEREAS, on May 24, 2007, the Puget Sound Regional Council completed its review of the ST2 Plan and determined that the plan "conforms" to the region's adopted long-range transportation plan, *Destination 2030* and VISION 2020; and

WHEREAS, the selection of ST2 projects and the development of the ST2 Plan has been informed by the 2005 supplemental EIS, the 1993 EIS, other relevant environmental documents and the other planning and technical analyses provided to the Board, including detailed project templates for each individual project in the ST2 Plan; and

WHEREAS, the ST2 Plan is based on, and is consistent with, the agency's adopted Regional Transit Long-Range Plan, and the ST2 Plan elements and projects fall within the range of alternatives and impacts reviewed in the 2005 supplemental EIS and other relevant environmental documents; and

WHEREAS, specific projects contained in the ST2 Plan will receive appropriate project-level environmental review following voter approval but prior to commitments for construction; and

WHEREAS, after considering the environmental review described herein, all of the public and agency comments received, input from the Expert Review Panel, the Citizen Oversight Panel, and from local jurisdictions and other governmental agencies, and the recommendations of the Sound Transit Finance and Executive Committees, the Sound Transit Board has determined that it is in the best interests of the citizens of the region to adopt the ST2 Regional Transit System Plan as substantially contained in Exhibit A attached hereto, including Appendices A – D.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of the Central Puget Sound Regional Transit Authority as follows:

Section 1. The Board hereby adopts the Sound Transit 2 Regional Transit System Plan for Central Puget Sound substantially as contained in Exhibit A attached hereto, together with its related Appendices A – D (the ST2 Plan).

Section 2. The amended Financial Policies contained in Appendix B of the ST2 Plan will take effect upon the earlier of either the approval of local funding by the voters at an election, currently scheduled for November 2007, or upon Board adoption of these amended Financial Policies by separate Resolution.

Section 3. The Board hereby identifies this ST2 Plan as Sound Transit's high-capacity transportation system plan, pursuant to the requirements of the state high-capacity transportation systems act, Chapter 81.104 RCW, and Sound Transit's enabling legislation, Chapter 81.112 RCW.

Section 4. The Board directs staff to make any final technical refinements to the ST2 Plan deemed necessary by the Chief Executive Officer to conform the plan to the Board's decision herein—including updating financial information and adding photos, charts and graphics to improve readability.

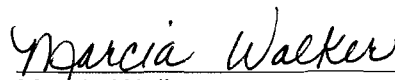
Section 5. The Board directs the Chief Executive Officer and staff to take any further actions necessary to implement the policies and determinations of the Board pursuant to this Resolution.

ADOPTED by not less than a 2/3 majority vote of the Board of the Central Puget Sound Regional Transit Authority as a major decision of the Board at a regular meeting thereof held on May 24, 2007.



John W. Ladenburg
Board Chair

ATTEST:



Marcia Walker
Board Administrator