

MOTION NO. M2010-101
2011 State Legislative Program

MEETING:	DATE:	TYPE OF ACTION:	STAFF CONTACT:	PHONE:
Executive Committee	12/2/10	Recommendation to Board	Ron Klein, Executive Director	206-398-5393
Board	12/16/10	Final Action	Melanie Smith, State Relations Specialist	206-398-5318

PROPOSED ACTION

Adopts the Sound Transit 2011 State Legislative Program and directs staff to continue to evaluate issues for impact to the agency as it continues to successfully implement the regional transportation system.

KEY FEATURES

This action would authorize Sound Transit's 2011 State Legislative Program to advocate and/or pursue the following positions during the upcoming state legislative session:

- Support a balanced statewide and regional transportation investment strategy that includes new funding sources for public transportation and high capacity transit systems.
- Support tolling policies that provide revenue to sustain and increase transit services, exempt transit vehicles from tolls and mitigate the impact of tolling on transit operations and maintenance.
- Support and partner with Sound Transit's partner agencies and others on efforts that would facilitate the cost-effective delivery of transit projects and services.
- Support legislative proposals promoting development that will result in reduced vehicle miles traveled, reduced greenhouse gas emissions, higher transit ridership, enhanced mobility and sustainability in the communities Sound Transit serves.
- Oppose legislation which amends Sound Transit's enabling statutes without the consent and advice of the Sound Transit Board of Directors, increases the costs of transit improvements and services or otherwise impairs the agency's ability to deliver its voter-approved regional high capacity transit program.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Annually the Sound Transit Board adopts a State Legislative Program. The program has typically included issues and policy guidance to staff and contract lobbyists to assist them in representing the agency's interests during the legislative session.

FISCAL INFORMATION

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.

SMALL BUSINESS PARTICIPATION

Not applicable to this action.

APPRENTICE UTILIZATION COMMITMENT

Not applicable to this action.

EQUAL EMPLOYMENT WORKFORCE PROFILE

Not applicable to this action.

BACKGROUND

This action would authorize Sound Transit staff and consultants to advocate and/or pursue the following positions during the upcoming state legislative session:

- **Support a balanced statewide and regional transportation investment strategy that includes new funding sources for public transportation and high capacity transit systems.**
The Sound Transit Board continues to express support for a balanced approach to transportation funding, project planning and implementation and hopes to work with the State as it examines future investments and funding options. Sound Transit encourages the State to continue its efforts to promote public transit and improve connectivity through the Regional Mobility Grant Program and to adopt policies that reflect the critical role of transit in addressing mobility, climate change and economic development. The Sound Transit 2 Plan approved by voters in 2008 included a commitment by the Board to seek legislative authority to replace or substantially reduce the agency's reliance on the sales and use tax as the primary funding source for regional transit improvements. Sound Transit will continue to explore opportunities to fund high capacity transit investments through other transportation-related funding tools such as tolling revenue, user-based fees, vehicles fees or other potential sources.
- **Support tolling policies that provide revenue to sustain and increase transit services, exempt transit vehicles from tolls and mitigate the impact of tolling on transit operations and maintenance.**
Sound Transit supports efforts to maximize the performance of the transportation system and believes transit should be recognized for its role in improving mobility, reducing congestion and carrying more people. Proposed State project plans for key corridors to be tolled rely on transit to provide attractive alternatives for commuters and will likely increase ridership demand. State policies should acknowledge that transit agencies are experiencing reduced revenues and service cutbacks by exempting transit from future tolls and providing revenue to help fund needed services.
- **Support and partner with Sound Transit's partner agencies and others on efforts that would facilitate the cost-effective delivery of transit projects and services.**
Sound Transit has historically supported legislative efforts that facilitate the cost-effective delivery of transit projects and services. The agency is committed to working with others to explore opportunities that provide Sound Transit with the best tools and policies to ensure the most efficient use of taxpayer dollars.
- **Support legislative proposals promoting development that will result in reduced vehicle miles traveled, reduced greenhouse gas emissions, higher transit ridership, enhanced mobility and sustainability in the communities Sound Transit serves.**
Mass transit, and in particular high capacity transit, can help the State achieve its goal of reducing greenhouse gas emissions, energy consumption and reliance on foreign oil. Policies adopted by the State should recognize the vital role of transit and the opportunities transit provides for creating jobs and making our communities more affordable and livable. Sound Transit supports proposals that facilitate future growth and planning that encourage appropriate land uses and densities to reinforce efficient land use and transit connectivity.
- **Oppose legislation which amends Sound Transit's enabling statutes without the consent and advice of the Sound Transit Board of Directors, increases the costs of transit improvements and services or otherwise impairs the agency's ability to deliver its voter-approved regional high capacity transit program.**
Having served more than 125 million riders in 11 years of service, and with many capital projects built or under construction, the Sound Transit Board will continue to oppose legislation that would change the agency's enabling statutes or negatively alter the oversight, financing, construction, delivery and operation of Sound Transit projects and services.

ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE

JI 11/22/10

TIME CONSTRAINTS

Sound Transit's interests are better served at the State Legislature if the Board of Directors adopts a State Legislative Program for the 2011 legislative session. Delaying adoption until the start of the session could minimize effective advocacy.

PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

Not applicable to this action.

LEGAL REVIEW

SS 11/22/10

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A motion of the Board of the Central Puget Sound Regional Transit Authority adopting the Sound Transit 2011 State Legislative Program and directing staff to continue to evaluate issues for impact to the agency as it continues to successfully implement the regional transportation system.

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MOTION:


It is hereby moved by the Board of the Central Puget Sound Regional Transit Authority that the Sound Transit 2011 State Legislative Program is adopted and staff is directed to continue to evaluate issues for impact to the agency as it continues to successfully implement the regional transportation system.

APPROVED by the Board of the Central Puget Sound Regional Transit Authority at a regular meeting thereof held on December 16, 2010.



Aaron Reardon
Board Chair

ATTEST:



Marcia Walker
Board Administrator