

MOTION NO. M2013-11

**Planning Approach for Regional Transit System Plan**

MEETING:	DATE:	TYPE OF ACTION:	STAFF CONTACT:	PHONE:
Board	2/28/13	Final action	Ric Ilgenfritz, PEPD Executive Director <b>David Beal, Director, Office of Planning &amp; Development</b>	206-398-5239 206-398-5124

**PROPOSED ACTION**

Approves a planning approach for the next phase of the Regional Transit System Plan in order to meet the requirements for a potential public vote to fund the next phase.

**KEY FEATURES SUMMARY**

- Approval of this motion allows staff to begin the planning process for implementing the next phase of the Regional Transit System Plan, currently referred to as ST3. This planning work will inform the Board's future decisions related to service, system expansion, new projects, and the timing of a potential public vote to fund the next phase, perhaps as early as 2016.
- The work plan includes:
  - High-capacity transportation (HCT) corridor studies:
    - Ballard to Downtown Seattle Expansion (currently underway)
    - South Corridor Alternatives Planning Study (currently underway)
    - Lynnwood to Everett Corridor
    - Central and East Corridors
    - South King County Corridors
  - 2005 Sound Transit Long-Range Plan (Long-Range Plan) update and environmental documentation
  - Program-wide public involvement and outreach
  - Assignment and reassignment of staff, as needed
- The Long-Range Plan update and all of the corridor studies are scheduled for completion in 2014.
- Funding to begin HCT corridor planning studies and planning for a potential ST3 System Plan was approved by the Board on December 20, 2012 and is included in the Adopted 2013 Budget.
- In 2013, program-wide public involvement and outreach services will be procured to support activities related to development of ST3. The contract for these services will be funded through the 2013 ST Planning budget.
- Funding for ST3 activities in 2014 through 2016 will be requested in future budgets.

**BACKGROUND**

The Agency uses both a long-range plan and an HCT system plan to guide the planning process for development and expansion of a high-capacity transportation system. A Long-Range plan presents a comprehensive view of the region's needs and a general vision for meeting those needs over the next 30 to 50 years. The Long-Range plan is implemented in a series of phases. An HCT system plan is more detailed. It breaks down parts of the long-range plan into individual, affordable projects to be implemented over the next 10 to 15 years.

The region's voters have approved two system plans, Sound Move in 1996 and Sound Transit 2 (ST2) in 2008. Both plans include funding for delivery and expansion of ST Express bus service,

Sounder commuter rail, Central Link light rail, and Tacoma Link light rail. In order to prepare for the next incremental investment toward completion of the long-range plan, ST2 includes funding for a series of planning studies (HCT corridor studies) for potential system expansion in the north, east, south, and central corridors.

The HCT corridor studies, Long-Range Plan update, and public involvement and outreach will begin in 2013. A three-stage approach will be used to develop a plan for the next phase of investments by 2016:

- |  |             |
|--|-------------|
| 1. HCT Corridor Studies                                    | 2013 - 2014 |
| 2. Long-Range Plan Update with Environmental documentation | 2013 - 2014 |
| 3. Next phase of the Regional HCT System Plan (ST3)        | 2015 - 2016 |

The HCT corridor studies will help inform the Board's future decisions for corridor modes, alignments, profiles, project timing, and budget and implementation responsibilities. HCT corridor studies include the conceptual development of multiple alternatives, evaluation, and identification of a representative alternative for early comparative purposes. The studies will help:

- Narrow the range of HCT alternatives within the corridors
- Evaluate potential routes and station locations
- Inform local comprehensive planning about potential future Sound Transit actions
- Prepare for future formal environmental review and engineering
- Support the Board's decisions about which, if any, of the corridors might be included in the updated Long-Range Plan and establish priorities for development of the next phase of the Regional Transit System Plan

Major work tasks to be completed in the HCT corridor studies include:

- Project Purpose and Need/Goals and Objectives
- Alternative Development and Analysis
- Development of Methodologies to Evaluate Alternatives
- Alternatives Evaluation
- Environmental Screening
- Risk Assessment
- Conceptual Ridership and/or Transit Market Potential Estimation
- Identification of TOD Opportunities
- Conceptual-level Design and Cost Estimates
- Administrative and Presentation Support
- Study Findings
- Draft and Final HCT Corridor Study Reports

More detailed analysis of alternatives will continue through the Long-Range Plan update and the development of ST3.

## FISCAL IMPACT

All the ST3-related staff and consultant planning activities occurring in 2013 were funded through a budget amendment to the Adopted 2013 Budget approved by the Board in December 2012. All consultant contracts funded through this budget will be presented for approval to the Board later in 2013. No partner funding is anticipated at this time.

This action does not include a request for finance. A description of the ST3 Planning Project can be found on page 99 of 198 and HCT Corridor Planning Studies on page 101 of 198 of the Proposed 2013 Transit Improvement Plan.

When financial action is requested in future actions, a budget table outlining the impact of the specific action will be provided.

## TIME CONSTRAINTS

A one month delay would not create a significant impact to the project schedule.

## PRIOR BOARD/COMMITTEE ACTIONS

Resolution No. R2012-25: Adopted an annual budget for the period from January 1 through December 31, 2013 and endorsed the 2013 Transit Improvement Plan

## ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW

JI 2/22/2013

## LEGAL REVIEW

DB 2/28/13

## **MOTION NO. M2013-11**

A motion of the Board of the Central Puget Sound Regional Transit Authority approving a planning approach for the next phase of the Regional Transit System Plan in order to meet the requirements for a potential public vote to fund the next phase.

### **BACKGROUND:**

This action allows staff to begin the planning process for implementing the next phase of the Regional Transit System Plan, currently referred to as ST3.

The Agency uses both a long-range plan and an HCT system plan to guide the planning process for development and expansion of a high-capacity transportation system. A Long-Range plan presents a comprehensive view of the region's needs and a general vision for meeting those needs over the next 30 to 50 years. The Long-Range plan is implemented in a series of phases. An HCT system plan is more detailed. It breaks down parts of the long-range plan into individual, affordable projects to be implemented over the next 10 to 15 years.

The region's voters have approved two system plans, Sound Move in 1996 and Sound Transit 2 (ST2) in 2008. Both plans include funding for delivery and expansion of ST Express bus service, Sounder commuter rail, Central Link light rail, and Tacoma Link light rail. In order to prepare for the next incremental investment toward completion of the long-range plan, ST2 includes funding for a series of planning studies (HCT corridor studies) for potential system expansion in the north, east, south, and central corridors.

The work plan includes High-capacity transportation (HCT) corridor studies for the Ballard to Downtown Seattle Expansion (currently underway), South Corridor Alternatives Planning Study (currently underway), Lynnwood to Everett Corridor, Central and East Corridors (including the Eastside Rail Corridor), and South King County Corridors. The work plan also includes updates to the 2005 Sound Transit Long-Range Plan (Long-Range Plan) and environmental documentation, program-wide public involvement and outreach, and assignment and reassignment of staff, as needed.

The HCT corridor studies, Long-Range Plan update, and public involvement and outreach will begin in 2013. A three-stage approach will be used to develop a plan for the next phase of investments by 2016:

- |   |             |
|---|-------------|
| 1. HCT Corridor Studies                                       | 2013 - 2014 |
| 2. Long-Range Plan Update with<br>Environmental documentation | 2013 - 2014 |
| 3. Next phase of the Regional HCT System Plan (ST3)           | 2015 - 2016 |

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- Project Purpose and Need/Goals and Objectives
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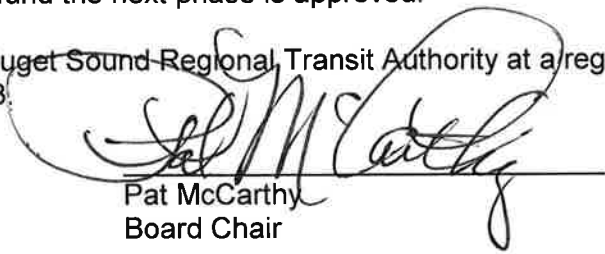
More detailed analysis of alternatives will continue through the Long-Range Plan update and the development of ST3.

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**MOTION:**


It is hereby moved by the Board of the Central Puget Sound Regional Transit Authority that a planning approach for the next phase of the Regional Transit System Plan in order to meet the requirements for a potential public vote to fund the next phase is approved.

APPROVED by the Board of the Central Puget Sound Regional Transit Authority at a regular meeting thereof held on February 28, 2013:



Pat McCarthy  
Board Chair

ATTEST:



Marcia Walker  
Board Administrator