

MOTION NO. M2014-84
2015 State Legislative Program

MEETING:	DATE:	TYPE OF ACTION:	STAFF CONTACT:
Executive Committee	11/06/2014	Recommendation to the Board	Ric Ilgenfritz, PEPD Executive Director Ann McNeil, Director of Government and Community Relations
Board	11/20/2014	Final Action	Melanie Smith, State Government Relations Manager

PROPOSED ACTION

Adopts the Sound Transit 2015 State Legislative Program and directs staff to evaluate and engage in issues that impact the agency as it continues to successfully implement the regional high capacity transit system.

KEY FEATURES SUMMARY

- This action would authorize Sound Transit staff and consultants in Olympia to advocate and/or pursue the following positions during the upcoming state legislative session:
 - Seek legislation to provide Sound Transit additional dedicated funding sources to finance expansion of the regional high capacity transit system.
 - Support a balanced statewide multimodal transportation funding package that helps address funding needs for all public transportation and high capacity transit systems through state funding and local revenue options.
 - Support and engage with partner agencies and others on efforts that would facilitate the safe, cost-effective and efficient delivery of transit projects and services.
 - Oppose legislation that 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.

BACKGROUND

The Board annually considers 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.

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

- **Seek legislation to provide Sound Transit additional dedicated funding sources to finance expansion of the regional high capacity transit system.**

The public continues to view transportation as the biggest problem facing the region and an overwhelming 85% support expansion of Sound Transit's system of light rail, commuter rail and buses to address that problem. Sound Transit is in the process of engaging with the public and planning for a possible 2016 ballot proposition to fund the next set of regional high capacity transit investments. The agency's current revenues are obligated to finance the voter-approved high capacity transit system being built under the ST2 Plan. Sound Transit will need additional funding options to support any proposals to continue system expansion. The Board seeks legislative approval of new, local-option revenue sources that would, subject to voter approval, enable the agency to develop and implement plans to continue building out the regional high capacity system. Such plans would help meet the region's projected population and employment growth by serving

the regional spine and other areas of significant demand for high capacity transit. The Board suggests consideration of sales and use tax, motor vehicle excise tax, property tax, and/or other revenue sources appropriate for expanding high capacity transit.

- **Support a balanced statewide multimodal transportation funding package that helps address funding needs for all public transportation and high capacity transit systems through state funding and local revenue options.**

The Board continues to express support for a balanced statewide approach to transportation funding, project planning and implementation, and hopes to work with the Legislature as it examines future investments and funding options for all transit agencies.

- **Support and engage with partner agencies and others on efforts that would facilitate the safe, cost-effective and efficient delivery of transit projects and services.**

Sound Transit has historically supported the legislative efforts of our partners and others that facilitate the efficient, safe and cost-effective delivery of transit projects and services. As part of ongoing coordination efforts, Sound Transit will work in collaboration on legislative efforts aimed at improving the transit system, including proposals impacting transit operations, the ORCA program, public safety and public works contracting.

- **Oppose legislation that 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 33 million riders in 15 years of service and with many major capital projects built or under construction, the Sound Transit Board will oppose legislation that would negatively alter the oversight, planning, financing, construction, delivery and operation of Sound Transit projects and services.

FISCAL IMPACT

This action does not have a budget or financial impact to the agency or any of its programs. 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. Advocacy of the State Legislative Program is fully funded through the Executive Department budget.

SMALL BUSINESS/DBE PARTICIPATION

Not applicable to this action.

PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

Not applicable to this action.

TIME CONSTRAINTS

Sound Transit's interests are better served at the State Legislature if the Board of Directors adopts a State Legislative Program in advance of the 2015 legislative session that begins January 12, 2015. Delaying adoption until after the start of the session could minimize effective advocacy.

ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW

JI 10/27/2014

LEGAL REVIEW

SS 10/29/2014

MOTION NO. M2014-84

A motion of the Board of the Central Puget Sound Regional Transit Authority adopting the Sound Transit 2015 State Legislative Program and directing staff to evaluate and engage in issues that impact the agency as it continues to successfully implement the regional high capacity transit 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 2015 State Legislative Program is adopted and staff is directed to evaluate and engage in issues that impact the agency as it continues to successfully implement the regional high capacity transit system.

APPROVED by the Board of the Central Puget Sound Regional Transit Authority at a regular meeting thereof held on November 20, 2014.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Dow Constantine", written over a horizontal line.

Dow Constantine
Board Chair

ATTEST:

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Marcia Walker", written over a horizontal line.

Marcia Walker
Board Administrator