

MOTION NO. M2015-06

Directing the Chief Executive Officer to Implement the Sustainability Plan – 2015 Update

MEETING:	DATE:	TYPE OF ACTION:	STAFF CONTACT:
Board	01/22/15	Final Action	Ric Ilgenfritz, PEPD Executive Director Perry Weinberg, Director Environmental Affairs & Sustainability Amy Shatzkin, Sustainability Manager

PROPOSED ACTION

Directs the chief executive officer to implement the Sustainability Plan – 2015 Update to continue the integration of sustainable business practices and strategies throughout the Sound Transit organization.

KEY FEATURES SUMMARY

- The purpose of this action is to continue to refine Sound Transit's sustainability efforts by authorizing the chief executive officer to direct staff implementation of the Sustainability Plan – 2015 Update.
- The Sound Transit Sustainability Plan – 2015 Update expands on the initial Sustainability Plan implemented by the Board in 2011.
- The 2015 Update:
 - Provides a snapshot of the Agency's progress since the initial 2011 Sustainability Plan, and offers additional information about how Sound Transit's mission supports regional sustainability.
 - Refines the Agency's original long-term goals, and provides new short-term goals to ensure the Agency delivers on its current sustainability vision.
 - Improves upon the Agency's initial sustainability plan by suggesting more specific actions, including integrating sustainable design and infrastructure into system planning and project delivery.
 - Focuses the Agency's sustainability work on time sensitive opportunities.

BACKGROUND

The environment is increasingly threatened due to diminishing natural resources and the impact of climate change. The purpose of environmental sustainability is to maintain adequate habitat and resources that meet present needs without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. In 2004, the Board adopted an environmental policy (Resolution No. R2004-06), and Sound Transit became one of first transit agencies to develop and implement an environmental management system (EMS). The Agency subsequently received ISO 14001 certification for meeting international environmental management standards.

In 2007, the Board adopted Resolution No. R2007-12, authorizing the chief executive officer to establish a Sound Transit sustainability initiative that addresses petroleum conservation; alternative fuels; renewable energy; energy efficiency; greenhouse gas emissions; water conservation; toxics reduction; procurement; waste prevention, re-use and recycling; building and facility performance; and land use. Pursuant to Resolution No. R2007-12, the chief executive officer issued Executive Order No. 1 directing staff to implement the sustainability initiative.

In 2011, a sustainability plan was developed to further guide staff in advancing the sustainability initiative and executive order. The Agency achieved more than 150 sustainability targets between 2007 and 2014. Those achievements have substantially reduced the use of energy, fuel, and paper use; while increasing recycling, and reducing the amount of waste produced. Additional information on resource savings is included in the annual sustainability progress reports that are provided to the Board and the public.

The original sustainability plan specified that there would be an update in 3 years. The 2015 update describes efforts to date, redefines long-term priorities and outlines next steps for near term implementation to serve as a roadmap for continual improvement. The Sustainability Plan – 2015 Update was developed with consideration of the policies, programs, and plans of partner jurisdictions and other progressive transit agencies.

As the Agency's sustainability efforts mature, the 2015 Update improves upon the initial Sustainability Plan by suggesting more specific goals and focusing the Agency's sustainability work on time sensitive opportunities. These opportunities include integrating sustainable design and infrastructure into system planning and project delivery, as well as working to limit environmental impacts from construction.

FISCAL INFORMATION

This action does not have a direct fiscal action or impact. The policies and projects presented in the Sustainability Plan – 2015 Update will be funded and screened through existing budget and review processes. As in prior years, any annual expenses would be identified and presented to the Board as part of the annual budget development process. Costs for design features will also receive review through the existing Design Criteria Manual update process and conceptual and preliminary engineering project phases. Although increases in capital or annual budget costs may be incurred for some projects, many projects result in reductions in lifetime operating and maintenance costs and resource savings.

SMALL BUSINESS/DBE PARTICIPATION AND APPRENTICESHIP UTILIZATION
Not applicable to this action.

PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT
Not applicable to this action.

TIME CONSTRAINTS

A one month delay would not create a significant schedule impact, but the issuance of the sustainability plan will assist staff during the business planning and budget process, which is underway.

PRIOR BOARD/COMMITTEE ACTIONS

Resolution No. R2007-12 – Authorized the chief executive officer to establish a Sound Transit sustainability initiative.

Resolution No. R2004-06 – Adopted an environmental policy.

ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW
JI 1/15/2015

LEGAL REVIEW
JB 1/15/2015

MOTION NO. M2015-06

A motion of the Board of the Central Puget Sound Regional Transit Authority directing the chief executive officer to implement the Sustainability Plan – 2015 Update to continue the integration of sustainable business practices and strategies throughout the Sound Transit organization.

BACKGROUND:

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The 2015 Update:

- Provides a snapshot of the Agency's progress since the initial 2011 Sustainability Plan, and offers additional information about how Sound Transit's mission supports regional sustainability;
- Refines the Agency's original long-term goals, and provides new short-term goals to ensure the Agency delivers on its current sustainability vision;

- Improves upon the Agency's initial sustainability plan by suggesting more specific actions, including integrating sustainable design and infrastructure into system planning and project delivery; and
- Focuses the Agency's sustainability work on time sensitive opportunities.

MOTION:

It is hereby moved by the Board of the Central Puget Sound Regional Transit Authority that the chief executive officer is directed to implement the Sustainability Plan – 2015 Update to continue the integration of sustainable business practices and strategies throughout the Sound Transit organization.

APPROVED by the Board of the Central Puget Sound Regional Transit Authority at a regular meeting thereof held on January 22, 2015.


Dow Constantine
Board Chair

ATTEST:



Kathryn Flores
Acting Board Administrator