

RESOLUTION NO. R2015-28
2016 Service Implementation Plan

MEETING:	DATE:	TYPE OF ACTION:	STAFF CONTACT:
Operations and Administration Committee Board	11/05/15 11/19/15	Recommend to Board Final Action	Bonnie Todd, Executive Director of Operations Mike Bergman, Service Planning Manager

PROPOSED ACTION

Adopts the 2016 Service Implementation Plan and authorizes the chief executive officer to implement recommended service changes in 2016.

KEY FEATURES SUMMARY

- The Draft 2016 Service Implementation Plan (SIP) describes Sound Transit service changes proposed for implementation during 2016, and preliminary service plans for 2017 through 2021. This action authorizes implementation of the 2016 service changes only. Preliminary bus and rail service concepts shown in the SIP for 2017-2021 are for planning and forecasting purposes only.
- Board approval of the 2016 SIP would authorize the chief executive officer to extend Link light rail service to Capitol Hill Station, University of Washington Station, and Angle Lake Station; implement a new weekday round trip on the Sounder south line; initiate new ST Express Route 541 connecting Overlake Village with the University District; and implement routing changes on ST Express Routes 555, 556, and 560.

BACKGROUND

Each year, Sound Transit prepares the SIP, an annual update on the development of the agency's light rail, commuter rail, and express bus services. The Draft 2016 SIP includes several significant service enhancements and changes which are summarized below.

Link Light Rail Extensions

Link light rail extensions to Capitol Hill, the University of Washington, and Angle Lake are under construction and scheduled for completion in 2016. The Draft SIP authorizes the start-up of these extensions and specifies the initial level of service, including the time periods service will be provided and the frequency of service during different times of the day. These service levels are consistent with the most recent Link Fleet Management Plan submitted to the Federal Transit Administration as a requirement for the Full Funding Grant Agreement.

New Sounder Round Trip

Under a 2010 agreement between Sound Transit and BNSF Railway, four new south line weekday round trips are being phased into service between 2013 and 2017. Additional service is needed to accommodate ridership growth and provide new schedule options for commuters. The first new trip under this agreement was implemented in 2013, and the second round trip is proposed for 2016. The 2016 round trip would operate between the A.M. and P.M. peak periods, providing new flexibility for commuters with work schedules that start later or end earlier in the day.

New ST Express Route 541

Proposed new ST Express bus Route 541 would connect the Overlake Village area of Redmond with the University District in Seattle. Stops would include the Overlake Village Park-and-Ride, Overlake Transit Center, the Yarrow Point and Evergreen Point freeway stations, and stops on NE Pacific Street and 15th Avenue NE serving the University of Washington Link Station and UW campus. The new route would operate only during weekday peak periods, but would run every 15 minutes in both directions, helping to address overcrowding by supplementing existing service in the corridor. Together with existing ST Route 542, Route 541 would provide a combined 7-8 minute service between Overlake Transit Center and the UW light rail station. Implementation of Route 541 would also help to mitigate the long-term closure of the Overlake Transit Center Park-and-Ride, made necessary by the start of East Link construction on that site. As an alternative for customers, Route 541 would serve the park-and-ride at Overlake Village, about one mile south of the Overlake Transit Center. If approved by the Board, service on Route 541 would start in March 2016.

Changes to ST Express Routes 555, 556 and 560

A long-term re-route would be implemented on three ST Express routes serving the South Bellevue Park-and-Ride to avoid traffic delays associated with the construction on 112th Avenue SE. If approved by the Board, these changes would be implemented in September 2016.

Routes 555 and 556 connect Issaquah with Northgate during peak periods and currently operate on 112th Avenue NE when approaching downtown Bellevue; with the change, these routes would switch from 112th to Bellevue Way, about ½ mile away. New bus stops would be established for Routes 555/556 on Bellevue Way to correspond to the ones that would be closed on 112th.

A long-term re-route would also be implemented on Route 560, which connects Westwood Village, Burien, SeaTac, and Renton with downtown Bellevue. This route currently uses I-405, I-90, Bellevue Way and 112th Avenue NE to enter downtown Bellevue. The proposed long-term re-route would keep the route on I-405 all the way to downtown Bellevue and use the NE 6th Street HOV direct access ramps to reach the Bellevue Transit Center – a faster, more dependable path than the current routing. However, current Bellevue customers boarding at South Bellevue Park-and-Ride and along 112th Avenue NE would need to access the route at the Bellevue Transit Center. The route change would avoid the East Link construction delays on 112th Avenue NE and provide faster service for the majority of riders.

Administrative Changes – ST Express

Service enhancements are planned for ST Express routes throughout the three-county area to address strong ridership growth and passenger overloads during peak periods. Based on Sound Transit's Service Standards and Performance Measures, approved by the Board, changes to these routes are considered administrative. The proposed changes are included in the Draft 2016 SIP and are summarized in the table below. The cost associated with the administrative changes is included in the Proposed 2016 Budget.

Route	Change	Route Description	Implementation Date
510, 511, 512, 513	Add run time to schedule to improve on-time performance and reliability	Everett-Seattle corridor	Sept. 2015 (proposed 2016 budget allows improvements to carry over)
545	15 new weekday trips	Redmond-Seattle via Overlake	Sept. 2016
554	12 new weekday trips	Issaquah-Seattle via Eastgate	March 2016
555/556	4 new weekday trips	Issaquah-Northgate	Sept. 2016
567	2 new weekday trips	Kent-Overlake	Sept. 2016
577	3 new weekday trips	Federal Way-Seattle	Sept. 2016
578	4 new weekday trips	Puyallup-Seattle via Federal Way	March 2016
580	2 new weekday trips	Puyallup-Lakewood via South Hill	Sept. 2016
596	2 new weekday trips	Sumner-Bonnie Lake	Sept. 2016

Travel time will be added to schedules for ST Express Routes 510, 511, 512, and 513 as well as minor changes to other routes in response to increased congestion and to make departure and arrival times more closely reflect actual traffic conditions. Trip additions on ST Express Routes 567, 580, and 596 are intended to provide connecting service to the new Sounder train trips planned for September 2016.

FISCAL INFORMATION

The 2016 SIP is funded by the service delivery operations budgets for each service – Sounder, ST Express, Link, and Tacoma Link. The proposed budgets were developed on the basis of the services described in the 2016 SIP. Those budgets are included in the Proposed 2016 Budget schedule for Board action in December 2015. Budget authority will be granted with the adoption of the 2016 budget.

Budget numbers in the following table shown in \$ thousands.

Modal Budget	2016 Proposed Budget (\$000)
ST Express	125,823
Sounder	45,764
Tacoma Link	5,068
Link	87,596
Total	264,252

SMALL BUSINESS/DBE PARTICIPATION, APPRENTICESHIP UTILIZATION, AND TITLE VI COMPLIANCE

Sound Transit staff determined that Small Business and DBE subcontracting opportunities are infeasible or improbable based upon the work described in this proposal, so Small Business/DBE goals were not established or required.

Staff also analyzed the potential impact of the proposed service changes on Title VI populations in the Sound Transit district. The majority of the proposals are service enhancements that provide

more mobility options or improve the quality of existing service. For those proposals that delete stops or relocate them more than ½-mile away, other existing services provide alternatives for customers. Based on the results of this analysis, when alternative service and other mitigating factors are taken into account, it does not appear that any of the proposed service changes have a disparate or disproportionate impact on Title VI populations in the Sound Transit district.

PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

The Draft 2016 SIP and its public information document, “Regional Transit News,” were posted on the Sound Transit website October 16, 2015. A link to the SIP was emailed to local jurisdictions, transportation agencies, and other key stakeholders and persons who signed up to receive Sound Transit reports. “Regional Transit News” contains explanations and maps of the service changes proposed in the SIP and encourages riders and the general public to contact Sound Transit with their comments. Copies of “Regional Transit News” were distributed on board Sounder trains, ST Express buses serving the SR 520 corridor, and at Sounder stations along the south line.

A public open house is scheduled in the Sound Transit Boardroom on November 5, 2015, followed by a public hearing where testimony will be received on the Draft 2016 SIP.

TIME CONSTRAINTS

A one-month delay would impact the ability to implement the service changes proposed for March 2016 due to contractual deadlines for service specifications set forth in the service agreements with the partner agencies.

PRIOR BOARD/COMMITTEE ACTIONS

Resolution R2014-32: Adopted the 2015 Service Implementation Plan and authorized the chief executive officer to implement recommended service changes in 2015.

ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW

Jl 10/26/2015

LEGAL REVIEW

JW 10/29/2015

RESOLUTION NO. R2015-28

A RESOLUTION of the Board of the Central Puget Sound Regional Transit Authority adopting the 2016 Service Implementation Plan and authorizing the chief executive officer to implement recommended service changes in 2016.

WHEREAS, the Central Puget Sound Regional Transit Authority, commonly known as Sound Transit, was formed under RCW Chapters 81.104 and 81.112 for the Pierce, King, and Snohomish Counties region by action of their respective county councils pursuant to RCW 81.112.030; and

WHEREAS, Sound Transit is authorized to plan, construct, and permanently operate a high-capacity system of transportation infrastructure and services to meet regional public transportation needs in the Central Puget Sound region; and

WHEREAS, in general elections held within the Central Puget Sound Regional Transit Authority district on November 5, 1996 and November 4, 2008, voters approved local funding to implement a regional high-capacity transportation system for the Central Puget Sound region; and

WHEREAS, express bus, commuter rail and light rail service will be implemented in phases, providing a program for route implementation and service increases over time which meet the commitment in Sound Move and Sound Transit 2; and

WHEREAS, the 2016 Service Implementation Plan includes additional information on future service plans for 2017-2021 including preliminary service changes to be used for planning and forecasting purposes; and

WHEREAS, implementation of the proposed service changes included in the 2016 Service Implementation Plan is contingent on final approval of the proposed 2016 Agency Budget and Long-Range Financial Plan by the Board of the Central Puget Sound Regional Transit Authority.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of the Central Puget Sound Regional Transit Authority that the 2016 Service Implementation Plan is adopted, and the chief executive

officer is authorized to implement the 2016 service changes included in the plan as described below:

Link light rail

Implement Link light rail extensions to Capitol Hill, the University of Washington, and Angle Lake stations. Service will operate every 6 minutes during weekday peak periods, every 15 minutes during early morning and late night periods, and every 10 minutes at other times.

Souder commuter rail

Implement new weekday Souder commuter rail round trip between Lakewood and Seattle that will operate during the midday between the A.M. and P.M. peak periods.

ST Express bus

Route 541 (Overlake Village-University District): Implement new ST Express Route 541 to connect the Overlake Village area of Redmond with the University District in Seattle via SR 520. Route 541 will serve the Overlake Village Park-and-Ride, Overlake Transit Center, NE 40th/SR 520 freeway station, the Yarrow Point, and Evergreen Point freeway stations, and stops on Northeast Pacific Street and 15th Avenue Northeast serving the University of Washington Link Station and UW campus. Service will operate every 15 minutes in both directions during weekday peak periods.

Changes to Routes 555 and 556 (Issaquah-Northgate via Bellevue): Implement a long-term re-route on ST Express Routes 555 and 556 in Bellevue to avoid traffic delays associated with East Link construction on 112th Avenue Southeast. Routes 555 and 556 will use Bellevue Way Southeast for the entire distance between South Bellevue Park-and-Ride and downtown Bellevue, instead of Bellevue Way Southeast and 112th Avenue Southeast. Route 555/556 bus stops will be deleted along 112th Avenue Southeast at Southeast 15th Street and Southeast 4th Street.

Changes to Route 560 (Westwood Village-Bellevue via Renton): Implement a long-term re-route on ST Express Route 560 in Bellevue to avoid traffic delays associated with

East Link construction on 112th Avenue Southeast. Route 560 will use Interstate 405 and Northeast 6th Street between Newport Hills Freeway Station and Bellevue Transit Center, rather than Interstate 90, Bellevue Way Southeast and 112th Avenue Southeast. Route 560 bus stops will be deleted at South Bellevue Park-and-Ride and along 112th Avenue Southeast at Southeast 15th Street and Southeast 4th Street.

ADOPTED by the Board of the Central Puget Sound Regional Transit Authority at a regular meeting thereof held on November 19, 2015.



Dow Constantine
Board Chair

ATTEST:



Kathryn Flores
Board Administrator