



MOTION NO. M2016-106

Northgate Link Extension – Relocation Agreement with Seattle City Light for Relocation of Transmission Line Utilities onto WSDOT Right-of-Way

MEETING:	DATE:	TYPE OF ACTION:	STAFF CONTACT:
Capital Committee	10/13/2016	Recommend to Board	Ahmad Fazel, DECM Executive Director
Board	10/27/2016	Final Action	Don Davis, Executive Project Director - Northgate Link Extension

PROPOSED ACTION

Authorizes the chief executive officer to execute an agreement with Seattle City Light for relocation of its Transmission Line Utilities from City of Seattle right-of-way to WSDOT right-of-way as part of the Northgate Link Extension.

KEY FEATURES SUMMARY

- The proposed agreement with Seattle City Light (SCL) is for the relocation of SCL’s 115kV transmission line from 1st Avenue NE to the west side of I-5 between North 105th Street and North 115th Street. The relocation is necessary to accommodate the Northgate Station and light rail guideway construction.
- Sound Transit will complete the work to relocate the 115kV transmission line through a separate construction contract. In addition to completing the initial move, Sound Transit will also be responsible for half of the cost of future moves if required by WSDOT during the next 30 years under the terms of a separate airspace lease between SCL and WSDOT.
- The transmission line being relocated to the west side of I-5 right-of-way to avoid conflicts with any future freeway-related work. WSDOT does not have any current freeway upgrade or expansion plans identified along this section of I-5.
- The transmission line route was changed to its new configuration along I-5 to avoid construction impacts associated with the previous proposed route along a residential street (North 115th Street) in the Haller Lake neighborhood. WSDOT and FHWA approval was needed to allow the placement of the transmission line in I-5 right-of-way. Final design of the new transmission line was approved by WSDOT and SCL.

BACKGROUND

Northgate Link is a 4.3-mile extension of light rail from the University of Washington Station north to Northgate and includes two underground stations serving the U District and Roosevelt and an elevated Station at Northgate. The Northgate Link project was baselined in June 2012 and light rail service is expected to begin in September 2021.

In order to construct the elevated guideway and station at Northgate, Seattle City Light’s existing 115kV transmission line running along 1st Avenue NE is being moved to a new route along the west side of I-5 in WSDOT right-of-way by Sound Transit’s contractor (N113). As part of that work, eight new poles are being installing along I-5 between North 105th Street and North 115th Street. Once this line is completed, it will be energized by SCL crews and then the existing line and poles along 1st Avenue NE will be removed, allowing work on Sound Transit’s elevated guideway to proceed. The N160 Northgate Station and guideway contractor is expected to begin site mobilization in mid-October 2016.

This agreement contains the terms for cost sharing between Sound Transit and Seattle City Light if WSDOT should require the line to be moved during the 30-year term of the agreement. WSDOT has granted SCL a 25-year utility franchise permit for the use of their right-of-way for this transmission line. The permit contains a requirement to remove the line if requested by WSDOT.

PROJECT STATUS

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Project Identification	Alternatives Identification	Conceptual Engineering	Preliminary Engineering	Final Design	Construction

Projected Completion Date for Construction: 4Q 2020
 Project scope, schedule and budget summary located on page 15 of the June 2016 Agency Progress Report.

FISCAL INFORMATION

The proposed agreement would obligate Sound Transit to equally share with Seattle City Light (SCL) the costs should the SCL transmission lines, currently being constructed on WSDOT I-5 right-of-way, need to be relocated a second time. However, given the investments and considerations now made, Sound Transit staff cannot reasonably predict that scenario over the 30-year term.

In accordance with Generally Accepted Accounting Practices (GAAP), an Assessment Retirement Obligation (ARO) liability needs to be recorded when a reasonable estimate can be made, and set aside as contingency for the project. However, per GAAP, this contingency only needs to be booked when two criteria are met: (1) It is determined probable to occur and (2) the amount of loss is reasonably estimated. When there is an issue with the first criteria, and the event cannot be determined as “probable,” the guidance is to require the liability to be booked at such time in the future when it becomes “probable.” Sound Transit will, therefore, flag or note in agreement tracking, to revisit these criteria periodically over the years, and set aside contingency if and when the amount of loss can be estimated.

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

Not applicable to this action.

PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

Not applicable to this action.

TIME CONSTRAINTS

A one-month delay on this action could result in a delay in N113 completion (currently expected by 1Q 2017) and may also affect follow-on N160 Northgate Station and guideway construction work.

PRIOR BOARD/COMMITTEE ACTIONS

Motion No. M2016-40: Authorized the chief executive officer to execute a contract with Potelco Inc. for the relocation of a 115kV aerial transmission line at Northgate within the Northgate Link Extension in the amount of \$2,811,927, with a 10% contingency of \$281,193, for a total authorized contract amount not to exceed \$3,093,120.

ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW

JI 10/4/2016

LEGAL REVIEW

JW 10/6/2016

MOTION NO. M2016-106

A motion of the Board of the Central Puget Sound Regional Transit Authority authorizing the chief executive officer to execute an agreement with Seattle City Light for relocation of its Transmission Line Utilities from City of Seattle right-of-way to WSDOT right-of-way as part of the Northgate Link Extension.

BACKGROUND:

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In order to construct the elevated guideway and station at Northgate, Seattle City Light's existing 115kV transmission line running along 1st Avenue NE is being moved to a new route along the west side of I-5 in WSDOT right-of-way by Sound Transit's contractor (N113). As part of that work, eight new poles are being installing along I-5 between North 105th Street and North 115th Street. Once this line is completed, it will be energized by SCL crews and then the existing line and poles along 1st Avenue NE will be removed, allowing work on Sound Transit's elevated guideway to proceed. The N160 Northgate Station and guideway contractor is expected to begin site mobilization in mid-October 2016.

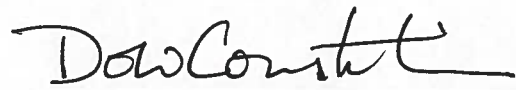
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MOTION:

It is hereby moved by the Board of the Central Puget Sound Regional Transit Authority that the chief executive officer is authorized to execute an agreement with Seattle City Light for relocation of its Transmission Line Utilities from City of Seattle right-of-way to WSDOT right-of-way as part of the Northgate Link Extension.

APPROVED by the Board of the Central Puget Sound Regional Transit Authority at a regular meeting thereof held on October 27, 2016.



Dow Constantine
Board Chair

ATTEST:



Kathryn Flores
Board Administrator