

MOTION NO. M2017-154
2018 State Legislative Program

MEETING:	DATE:	TYPE OF ACTION:	STAFF CONTACT:
Executive Committee	12/07/2017	Recommend to Board	Ann McNeil, Executive Director Government & Community Relations
Board	12/21/2017	Final Action	Alex Soldano, State Relations Manager

PROPOSED ACTION

Adopting the Sound Transit 2018 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.

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:

- Support and engage with partner agencies and others on efforts to 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.
- Work with legislators to address concerns related to the motor vehicle excise tax, including offering ideas to mitigate impact of lost revenues to the voter-approved financial plan.

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:

- **Support and engage with partner agencies and others on efforts to 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 on-going coordination efforts, Sound Transit will work in collaboration on efforts aimed at improving the transit system, including the earliest possible implementation of Positive Train Control, 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.**
 Projecting a total of more than 47 million trips in 2017 across 51 cities, and with more than 10 billion capital investment to develop infrastructure throughout the past twenty years, 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.

- **Continue to work collaboratively with the State Legislature to address concerns related to Motor Vehicle Excise Taxes while preserving the agency's ability to fully deliver the voter-approved plan within the adopted timeline.**

The Board's motion M2017-37 directs Sound Transit staff to engage with the State Legislature and pursue options to address public concerns about Motor Vehicle Excise Taxes and the depreciation schedule in use for Sound Transit 3. Sound Transit will work with the Legislature to develop solutions that protect the agency's ability to deliver the voter-approved plan within the adopted timeline.

FISCAL INFORMATION

Advocacy of the State Legislative Program is fully funded through the Executive Department budget. This action does not have a budget or financial impact to the agency or any of its programs outside of the pending adoption of the proposed 2018 budget by the Board.

SMALL BUSINESS/DBE PARTICIPATION AND APPRENTICESHIP UTILIZATION

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 2018 legislative session that begins January 8, 2018. Delaying adoption until after the start of the session could minimize effective advocacy.

ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW

KH 11/27/17

LEGAL REVIEW

SGS 11/27/17

MOTION NO. M2017-154

A motion of the Board of the Central Puget Sound Regional Transit Authority adopting the Sound Transit 2018 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.

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:

- **Support and engage with partner agencies and others on efforts to 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 on-going coordination efforts, Sound Transit will work in collaboration on 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.**
Projecting a total of more than 47 million trips in 2017 across 51 cities, and with more than 10 billion capital investment to develop infrastructure throughout the past twenty years, 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.
- **Continue to work collaboratively with the State Legislature to address concerns related to Motor Vehicle Excise Taxes while preserving the agency's ability to fully deliver the voter-approved plan within the adopted timeline.**
The Board's motion M2017-37 directs Sound Transit staff to engage with the State Legislature and pursue options to address public concerns about Motor Vehicle Excise Taxes and the depreciation schedule in use for Sound Transit 3. Sound Transit will work with the Legislature to develop solutions that protect the agency's ability to deliver the voter-approved plan within the adopted timeline.

MOTION:

It is hereby moved by the Board of the Central Puget Sound Regional Transit Authority has adopted the Sound Transit 2018 State Legislative Program and directed staff 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 December 21, 2017.



Dave Somers
Board Chair

ATTEST:



Kathryn Flores
Board Administrator