

MOTION NO. M2017-161

**Partnering Agreement with the City of Seattle related to the West Seattle and Ballard Link Extensions Project**

MEETING:	DATE:	TYPE OF ACTION:	STAFF CONTACT:
Capital Committee	12/14/2017	Recommend to Board	Don Billen, Acting PEPD Executive Director
Board	12/21/2017	Final Action	<b>Cathal Ridge, Central Corridor HCT Development Director</b>

PROPOSED ACTION

Authorizes the chief executive officer to execute a Partnering Agreement with the City of Seattle for the West Seattle and Ballard Link Extensions Project.

KEY FEATURES SUMMARY

- The West Seattle and Ballard Link Extensions Project is located wholly within the City of Seattle and the City of Seattle is a key project partner.
- The Partnering Agreement is the first step in the Sound Transit partnering process with the City of Seattle consistent with the System Expansion Implementation Plan.
- The intent of the Partnering Agreement is to establish common understanding of roles, responsibilities, and schedule and budget imperatives necessary for timely delivery of the project.
- The Seattle City Council is scheduled to approve the execution of this Agreement on December 11, 2017.
- Future agreements are expected as the project advances through subsequent development and delivery phases.

BACKGROUND

The West Seattle and Ballard Link Extensions is a voter approved project under the ST3 Plan. The Project includes the following representative ST3 Plan projects:

West Seattle to Downtown Seattle Light Rail

This representative light rail project would connect West Seattle to Downtown Seattle via Alaska Street, Fauntleroy Way, Genesee Street, Delridge Way, Spokane Street, and the SODO Busway. The representative alignment includes five stations – one at-grade and four elevated. The alignment also includes a new connection to the existing Downtown Seattle Transit Tunnel south of the International District/Chinatown Station, a new rail-only high-rise bridge structure over the Duwamish Waterway, elevated alignment over SR 99 and the S Spokane Street Viaduct, and an elevated alignment in West Seattle.

Ballard to Downtown Seattle Light Rail

This project would build light rail from Downtown Seattle to Ballard’s Market Street area. The representative alignment for this light rail project is elevated along 15th Avenue NW starting at Market Street, crossing Salmon Bay on a rail-only new bridge near the Ballard Bridge. South of Salmon Bay, the alignment would continue in an elevated profile along 15th Avenue NW through the Interbay corridor and Elliott Avenue W, and then transition to a tunnel alignment through the Uptown and South Lake Union neighborhoods. This project would be constructed in conjunction with the Downtown Seattle Light Rail Tunnel project, which would continue the tunnel alignment

through downtown to International District. This segment also constructs the connection of the Downtown Seattle Light Rail Tunnel to the existing Central Link tracks at S Massachusetts Street. This project alignment includes five stations – three elevated and two underground.

#### Downtown Seattle Light Rail Tunnel

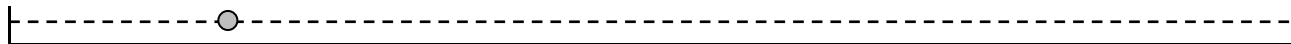
This project would build light rail from South Lake Union to the International District. The representative alignment for this light rail project would be underground along Westlake Avenue at Denny to 6th Ave then 5th Ave until the International District. This project would be constructed in conjunction with the Ballard to Downtown Seattle Light Rail project that connects the north end of this project alignment to Ballard and the south end to a connection with Central Link at S Massachusetts Street. This project contains four underground stations.

The System Expansion Implementation Plan (SEIP) acknowledges that engaging with jurisdictional partners who have land use, permitting, oversight or regulatory authority is central to maintaining project schedules. Partnering agreements are intended to provide greater clarity and predictability for local governments and to foster mutual accountability for meeting key milestones.

The City of Seattle has the authority to permit light rail construction and operation within the City of Seattle consistent with the project's status as an essential public facility. The Partnering Agreement follows SEIP guidance and establishes common understanding of roles, responsibilities, and schedule and budget imperatives necessary for timely delivery of the project, including commitment to:

- Designated Representatives and Project Development Team
  - Establish single point of contact and Project Development Team to identify and resolve issues early.
- Scope, Schedule, Budget
  - Work together to complete project within ST3 schedule and budget. If there are requests to increase scope, collaborate to identify scope reductions elsewhere/local contributions.
- Project Definition
  - Start with ST3 representative project as basis to investigate other reasonable alternatives to be evaluated. Collaborate early on evaluation of reasonable alternatives that meet intent of ST3 Plan.
- Community Engagement
  - Collaborate on development of Community Engagement and Communications Plan.
- Station Planning Activities
  - Develop process to coordinate station planning activities.
- Permit Streamlining
  - Identify and implement actions to streamline permit review. Develop Preliminary Permitting Plan.
- SEPA/NEPA
  - Participate actively in the environmental review process. Develop environmental documents that both Parties can use for required project development approvals and permitting decisions.
- Coordination on Planned Projects
  - Coordinate on planned projects within the Project area and resolve conflicts as early as possible.
- Staffing
  - ST may reimburse City costs for certain services. Develop funding agreement.

## PROJECT STATUS



<b>Project Identification</b>	<b>Alternatives Identification</b>	<b>Conceptual Engineering / Draft EIS</b>	<b>Preliminary Engineering / Final EIS</b>	<b>Final Design</b>	<b>Construction</b>
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Projected Completion Date for Alternatives Identification: 2Q 2019

## FISCAL INFORMATION

Although there is no direct or immediate fiscal action associated with the proposed action, there may be fiscal impacts as the project progresses. Those impacts will be addressed during future actions as they are presented.

In the Partnering Agreement, no party including Sound Transit makes any specific financial commitment. The Partnering Agreement includes commitment by both parties to negotiate in good faith funding agreement(s) for certain technical services and products (e.g. permit streamlining activities) that would support completion of the Project on schedule and within budget and to which Sound Transit could then commit to provide reimbursement to the City for the costs of these services and products.

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

Not applicable to this action.

## PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

Sound Transit will actively seek public feedback at all project stages for the West Seattle and Ballard Link Extensions Project with the goal of fostering public trust through transparent communication, meaningful involvement and being responsive to concerns and issues.

The Partnering Agreement includes a commitment to collaborate with the City on development of a Community Engagement & Communications Plan.

## TIME CONSTRAINTS

A one-month delay would not create a significant impact to the project schedule.

## PRIOR BOARD/COMMITTEE ACTIONS

Resolution No. R2017-32: (1) Amended the Adopted 2017 Budget to create the West Seattle and Ballard Link Extensions Project by (a) establishing the Project Allocation to Date through the completion of the Preliminary Engineering Phase in the amount of \$285,896,000 and (b) establishing the 2017 Annual Budget in the amount of \$4,150,000; (2) authorized the project to advance through Gate 1 within Sound Transit's Phase Gate Process; and (3) established the name of the project as the West Seattle and Ballard Link Extensions Project.

Resolution No. R2017-17: Amended the adopted annual operating budget in the amount of \$3,814,704 to pay for additional staffing and other mobilization costs required to facilitate early Sound Transit 3 work.

Resolution No. R2016-37: Adopted an annual budget for the period from January 1 through December 31, 2017, and adopted the 2017 Transit Improvement Plan.

ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW

KH 12/6/17

LEGAL REVIEW

SS 12/08/17

## MOTION NO. M2017-161

A motion of the Board of the Central Puget Sound Regional Transit Authority authorizing the chief executive officer to execute a Partnering Agreement with the City of Seattle for the West Seattle and Ballard Link Extensions Project.

## BACKGROUND:

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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 a Partnering Agreement with the City of Seattle for the West Seattle and Ballard Link Extensions Project.

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