

MOTION NO. M2018-38

A motion of the Board of the Central Puget Sound Regional Transit Authority changing the name of the Redmond Technology Center Station within the East Link Extension to the Redmond Technology Station.

BACKGROUND:

East Link extends light rail 14 miles from downtown Seattle to downtown Bellevue and the Overlake area of Redmond via I-90, with stations serving Rainier Avenue/I-90, Mercer Island, South Bellevue, Downtown Bellevue, Overlake Hospital, the Bel-Red Corridor, Overlake Village, and the Overlake Transit Center. The East Link project route, profiles, and station locations, including the tunnel route in downtown Bellevue, were selected by the Sound Transit Board on July 28, 2011, and amended on April 25, 2013. In April 2015, the Sound Transit Board established the baseline budget and schedule for the project. Revenue service between Seattle and the Overlake Transit Center is forecasted for 2023.

The Board adopted the Facility and Link System Naming Policy in February 2012. The policy established a process, timeframe, and criteria for naming facilities. The policy states that station names should:

- Reflect the nature of the environment: neighborhoods, street names, landmarks, geographical locations;
- Be brief, easy to read and remember;
- Comply with federal Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) guidelines and requirements and be limited to 30 characters;
- Avoid commercial references because they may change, prove confusing to the public and be costly to change;
- Avoid similar names or words in existing facility names.

East Link outreach staff provided stakeholders, jurisdictional partners, and transit agencies with information about the naming process and the variety of methods used to obtain feedback. Methods included distribution of hardcopy surveys to open house attendees, postings on social media inviting public comment on stations design and names, and the mailing of electronic newsletters with a survey link to over 5,500 subscribers on the project email distribution list.

Based on responses received during the public outreach process and discussions with local jurisdictions, the Board adopted station names for the East Link Extension through Motion No. M2015-58 in June 2015.

At that time, Redmond Technology Center Station was selected for the station located along SR 520 at the current Overlake Transit Center site. The Board selected this name based upon feedback from the community, major stakeholders and the Redmond City Council. In a letter to the Board, Redmond City Council stated that their preference for the name was based upon the fact that it “clearly expresses that the station is located in Redmond, and communicates the station’s surroundings.”

In January 2017, the City of Redmond and Microsoft sent a joint letter to Sound Transit, requesting that the name be shortened in order to simplify the name. Both parties believe that changing the name to Redmond Technology Station maintains the original rationale for the station name and doesn’t alter the existing name in a substantial way.

Station names and any changes to adopted names need to be approved by the Sound Transit Board.

MOTION:

It is hereby moved by the Board of the Central Puget Sound Regional Transit Authority that the name of the Redmond Technology Center Station within the East Link Extension is changed to the Redmond Technology Station.

APPROVED by the Board of the Central Puget Sound Regional Transit Authority at a regular meeting thereof held on March 22, 2018.



Dave Somers
Board Chair

ATTEST:


Kathryn Flores
Board Administrator