



## Motion No. M2019-119

### 2020 State Legislative Program

Meeting:	Date:	Type of action:	Staff contact:
Executive Committee Board	12/12/2019 12/19/2019	Recommend to Board Final action	Ann McNeil, Chief Government & Community Relations Officer <b>Alex Soldano, State Relations Director</b>

### Proposed action

Adopting the Sound Transit 2020 State Legislative Program and directing staff to evaluate and engage in issues that impact the agency as it continues to implement a 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.
  - Work with our agency partners to maintain mobility and service amid uncertainty subsequent to passage of I-976.

### 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.**

With a total of more than 48.2 million trips in 2018 across 51 cities, and with more than \$2.5 billion capital investment to develop infrastructure scheduled in 2020, 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, through Motion No. M2017-37 directed 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 within constitutional and statutory limitations and ensures that the agency's ability to deliver the voter-approved plan within the adopted timeline.

- **Work with our agency partners to maintain mobility and service amid uncertainty subsequent to passage of I-976.**

Sound Transit relies on our agency partners' ability to integrate with our regional system in order to effectively deliver on our mission to provide regional transit service throughout the Puget Sound. Sound Transit will work alongside our partners and support efforts that preserve or strengthen their ability to delivery mobility and transit services to customers.

## **Fiscal information**

This action does not have a budget or financial impact to the agency or any of its programs. There is no action outside of the Board-adopted budget; there are no contingency funds required, no subarea impacts, or funding required from other parties other than what is already assumed in the financial plan. Advocacy of the State Legislative Program is fully funded through the Executive Department budget.

## **Disadvantaged and small business participation**

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 2020 legislative session that begins January 13, 2020. Delaying adoption until after the start of the session could minimize effective advocacy.

---

**Environmental review** – KH 12/6/19

**Legal review** – DB 12/6/19



## Motion No. M2019-119

A motion of the Board of the Central Puget Sound Regional Transit Authority Adopting the Sound Transit 2020 State Legislative Program and directing staff to evaluate and engage in issues that impact the agency as it continues to implement a 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.**

With a total of more than 48.2 million trips in 2018 across 51 cities, and with more than \$2.5 billion capital investment to develop infrastructure scheduled in 2020, 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 support the public's desire to base vehicle taxes on a vehicle's true current value, in a revenue neutral manner.**

The Board, through Motion No. M2017-37 directed 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 seek to implement the public's desire to base vehicle taxes on a vehicle's true current value, in a revenue neutral manner.

- **Work with our agency partners to maintain mobility and service amid uncertainty subsequent to passage of I-976.**

Sound Transit relies on our agency partners' ability to integrate with our regional system in order to effectively deliver on our mission to provide regional transit service throughout the Puget Sound. Sound Transit will work alongside our partners and support efforts that preserve or strengthen their ability to delivery mobility and transit services to customers.

- **Support efforts to create new flexible revenue options to fund transit and transportation investments**

Washington State restricts the use of gas tax revenue (its main funding source for state transportation projects) to be spent solely for highway purposes. As the State undertakes discussion of new transportation funding options, Sound Transit supports flexibility in the requirements for use of any such funding, to support an effective, efficient transportation system that meets the varying needs across Washington State.

## **Motion**

It is hereby moved by the Board of the Central Puget Sound Regional Transit Authority that the Sound Transit 2020 State Legislative Program is adopted, and staff is directed to evaluate and engage in issues that impact the agency as it continues to implement a 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 19, 2019.



---

John Marchione  
Board Chair

**Attest:**



---

Kathryn Flores  
Board Administrator