

**SOUND TRANSIT
RESOLUTION NO. R2013-03 – Attachment A**

SYSTEM ACCESS POLICY

Sound Transit's mission is to plan, build, and operate regional transit systems and services to improve mobility for central Puget Sound. Sound Transit is committed to wisely managing public funds and facilitating access to its regional high capacity transit system while fulfilling the agency's mission. Sound Transit's responsibility is to provide and operate a high-capacity transit system delivering fast, frequent transit service that connects the region's urban centers. Sound Transit is authorized to use its tax revenues to plan, construct and operate high-capacity transit as defined in its enabling legislation (81.104 RCW).

The System Access Policy establishes a framework for Sound Transit's support and management of, and investment in, infrastructure and facilities to provide customer access to its transit services. Sound Transit will seek to provide or facilitate equitable improvements in access to transit services in cooperation with public and private entities as allowed by applicable laws, regulations, plans and policies. When designing transit facilities and services, Sound Transit will work with partner agencies, jurisdictions and third parties to maximize pedestrian, bike and transit access and provide parking capacity within available resources.

1) PURPOSE

The goals of the System Access Policy and Sound Transit's system access efforts are to:

- A. Increase transit ridership
- B. Encourage convenient and safe connections to Sound Transit services through all access modes including:
 - Connecting transit and ferry services
 - Paratransit pick-up and drop-off
 - Pedestrian access
 - Bicycle access
 - Private vehicle pick-up and drop-off
 - Vehicles requiring parking

2) SYSTEM ACCESS STRATEGIES

Sound Transit will facilitate access to its transit services on its properties and work cooperatively with local jurisdictions to promote access from surrounding communities.

- A. Sound Transit may participate in two types of system access investments:
 - 1. **Transit Facilities:** Transit facility investments include all properties, structures and improvements owned or controlled by Sound Transit. Transit facility investments are made for the purpose of enabling customers to access Sound Transit services.

2. **Access Infrastructure:** Access infrastructure investments include improvements, facilities, signage and systems designed to provide access to Sound Transit facilities from surrounding communities. Access infrastructure investments may be made by Sound Transit or others. Sound Transit may take a lead or a support role in identifying and implementing access infrastructure investments.

B. **Considerations for System Access Investment.** Sound Transit design of transit facilities and investment in access infrastructure will take into consideration the following:

- Ridership
- Total cost of ownership or total lifecycle cost to Sound Transit, including partnership costs for joint projects with third parties
- Sound Transit and local jurisdiction plans and planning documents
- Public input

Sound Transit shall use these criteria to assess and prioritize potential access improvement projects.

C. **Cooperation with Local Jurisdictions.** Sound Transit will work cooperatively and in partnership with local jurisdictions to manage parking demand at and near transit facilities and to encourage pedestrian, bicycle and transit access to facilities, maximizing efficient use of available transit parking resources.

D. **Cooperation with Public Transportation Partners.** Sound Transit will work cooperatively with other providers of public transportation services and parking facilities to identify appropriate methods of responding to changing parking demands and usage patterns resulting from Sound Transit actions.

E. **Bicycle-related Infrastructure, Equipment and Services.** Sound Transit may encourage and support bicycle usage at its stations and facilities through bicycle-related infrastructure, equipment, services, usage fees and agreements with outside parties.

3) **PARKING MANAGEMENT**

A. **Parking for Transit Use Only.** Parking provided by Sound Transit is intended for and restricted to customers of transit services at the facility. Sound Transit may allow exceptions for other purposes including:

- Security or service vehicles or other Sound Transit purposes
- Vending, community or other incidental facility uses as permitted by Sound Transit
- Vanshare or public shuttle vehicles under an agreement between Sound Transit and a public agency
- Carshare or private-provider shuttle vehicles under an agreement between Sound Transit and a third party
- Parking that is provided through a joint-use, lease, or other agreement with a third party for shared transit and non-transit uses
- Parking for commuters forming carpools or vanpools, when specifically allowed and posted by Sound Transit at parking facilities with sufficient unused capacity and without denying parking access to transit users

- Temporary use for non-transit purposes as authorized by Sound Transit at facilities with sufficient unused capacity and at such times as will not deny parking access to transit users

B. Parking Management Tools

1. Sound Transit may implement parking management tools to increase ridership, ensure parking availability for transit users and efficient use of parking facilities, support transit and facility operations, and support transit access improvements:
 - Designated parking for high-occupancy vehicles and vanpool vehicles
 - Designated parking for transit parking permit holders
 - Parking validation systems
 - Parking fees
 - Parking management technology, including electronic signage, parking management systems, parking space availability monitoring and reporting systems, or other technical components for efficient management of parking
2. All fees and pricing require Board approval.

C. Customer Parking Rules and Regulations. Administrative policies and procedures for customer use of Sound Transit parking facilities shall be maintained and posted by Sound Transit.

D. Enforcement Actions. Where authorized by applicable law, Sound Transit may implement the following penalties for activities prohibited by Sound Transit rules governing use of parking facilities:

1. Written warnings;
2. Parking infractions, citations or fee notices for monetary penalty;
3. Attaching a device to a vehicle's wheel to prevent it from being moved until a monetary penalty or release fee is paid;
4. Towing a vehicle at owner's risk and expense.

E. Contracting of Management and Enforcement. Sound Transit may contract any portion of its parking management responsibilities to a third party.

F. Parking Lot Ownership. Generally, Sound Transit's policies will only apply to parking facilities that it owns, has a leasehold interest in or controls. To the extent that facilities are co-owned and operated, an interlocal agreement will identify a lead agency whose policies will apply.