



Motion No. M2023-07

Agreement with the Washington State Department of Transportation for the Virtual Coordination Center

Meeting:	Date:	Type of action:	Staff contact:
Rider Experience & Operations Committee	01/19/2023	Recommend to Board	David Wright, Chief Safety Officer
Board	01/26/2023	Final Action	Ken Cummins, Director of Public Safety

Proposed action

Authorizes the chief executive officer to execute an Interlocal Agreement with the Washington State Department of Transportation, the Washington State Patrol, King County Metro Transit, and the City of Seattle for Sound Transit to become a member of the Virtual Coordination Center at no cost to Sound Transit.

Key features summary

- The Virtual Coordination Center is a cloud-based tool that allows multiple agencies to share information and collaborate in real-time to manage congestion caused by major traffic related incidents. VCC pilot membership does not require financial resources due to federal grant funding for this pilot program.
- This agreement is for the pilot and evaluation phase, which is scheduled for October 2020 to September 2023, and is written so that pilot members can continue to use the VCC beyond the pilot phase until a permanent agreement is negotiated and executed. Staff will return to the Board if future membership fees exceed the CEO's delegated authority of \$5,000,000.
- Current members of VCC include:
 - Sound Transit
 - Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT)
 - King County Metro Transit
 - Washington State Patrol
 - Seattle Department of Transportation
 - Seattle Police Department
 - Seattle Fire Department
- VCC members share data within a common virtual workspace.
- The benefits of Sound Transit becoming a member of the VCC include:
 - Increase in awareness of regional events, emergencies, or critical incidents that may affect Sound Transit operations. Sound Transit will see incidents as they occur and have near real-time information from transit and/or responder agencies;
 - Enable Sound Transit to make more informed decisions and distribute unified messages; and,

- Enable Sound Transit to collaborate and coordinate responses with other members.
- Sound Transit's commitment to the pilot phase is to:
 - Appoint Sound Transit representatives to both the Executive Board and Steering Committee of the VCC as outlined in the VCC Charter;
 - Provide administrators for Sound Transit users, administrators will attend on-line planning, management, and training meetings and provide feedback;
 - Receive on-line VCC training; and,
 - Monitor the VCC and input data on Sound Transit incidents relevant to VCC members, such as service disruptions.

Background

The Virtual Coordination Center (VCC) for Multimodal Integrated Corridor Management Project is a model deployment of a cloud-based environment that enables regional stakeholders to share a common working environment in support of coordinated mobility management. Agencies will share data within a common virtual workspace that allows transportation managers across all agencies to see incidents as they occur, make more informed decisions, collaborate in real-time to coordinate response, and distribute a unified public message. By creating a robust pool of shared data, VCC will also harness advances in data analytics, machine learning, and predictive modeling to improve regional planning and operations with scalability and portability to locations throughout the state and nation.

The development of VCC is funded in part by a Federal Highway Administration's Advanced Transportation and Congestion Management Technologies Deployment Program grant, awarded to the Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) in September 2020. The University of Washington (UW) is managing VCC using agile development methodologies. An agile approach enhances the end product by involving stakeholders at every stage of development. The pilot period is scheduled for October 2020 to September 2023. This agreement is for the pilot phase and is written so that pilot members can continue to use the VCC beyond the pilot phase and until a permanent agreement is available to take its place.

The Seattle area is among the fastest growing economies in the United States, with increasing city densification and traffic. Half of all traffic congestion is due to incidents such as disabled vehicles, flooded roadways, trucks losing their loads, and more. For every minute a highway lane is blocked, 4 to 10 minutes of traffic congestion results, costing the region millions of dollars in lost economic value. Incidents also lead to secondary collisions, increased fuel consumption, and air pollution. The region recognizes that we cannot simply build our way out of these mobility and environmental problems; we must make more efficient use of the resources we have in place. This means better coordination of operations, improved communications, and more effective deployment of transportation resources to increase safety and maximize mobility.

Fiscal information

The VCC pilot program is federally funded until September 30, 2023. WSDOT is working on obtaining funding for the VCC to continue operating beyond September 2023. The Governor is proposing a budget for the VCC to remain operational past the end of the pilot phase and through the transition into a permanent program. The proposed budget will be considered during the Legislative session ending April 2023.

As provided above, there is a potential for future costs to be a member of the VCC. Currently, there is no financial estimate for the membership and future VCC program and maintenance fees.

When those costs are established, they will be evaluated for funding in the current budget year and/or included in the future year(s) budget development processes.

Disadvantaged and small business participation

Not applicable to this action.

Public involvement

Not applicable to this action.

Time constraints

A one-month delay would not create a significant impact to membership.

Environmental review – LS 1/3/2023

Legal review – AJP 1/12/23



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A motion of the Board of the Central Puget Sound Regional Transit Authority authorizing the chief executive officer to execute an Interlocal Agreement with the Washington State Department of Transportation, the Washington State Patrol, King County Metro Transit, and the City of Seattle for Sound Transit to become a member of the Virtual Coordination Center at no cost to Sound Transit.

Background

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Current members of VCC include Sound Transit, WSDOT, King County Metro Transit, Washington State Patrol, Seattle Department of Transportation, Seattle Police Department, and the Seattle Fire Department.

VCC members share data within a common virtual workspace. The benefits of Sound Transit becoming a member of the VCC include an increase in awareness of regional events, emergencies, or critical

incidents that may affect Sound Transit operations. Sound Transit will see incidents as they occur and have near real-time information from transit and/or responder agencies, it will enable Sound Transit to make more informed decisions and distribute unified messages and will enable Sound Transit to collaborate and coordinate responses with other members.

Sound Transit's commitment to the pilot phase is to appoint Sound Transit representatives to both the Executive Board and Steering Committee of the VCC as outlined in the VCC Charter, provide administrators for Sound Transit users, administrators will attend on-line planning, management, and training meetings and provide feedback, receive on-line VCC training; and monitor the VCC and input data on Sound Transit incidents relevant to VCC members, such as service disruptions.

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 an Interlocal Agreement with the Washington State Department of Transportation, the Washington State Patrol, King County Metro Transit, and the City of Seattle for Sound Transit to become a member of the Virtual Coordination Center at no cost to Sound Transit.

APPROVED by the Board of the Central Puget Sound Regional Transit Authority at a regular meeting thereof held on January 26, 2023.



Dow Constantine
Board Chair

Attest:



Kathryn Flores
Board Administrator