# Resolution No. R2023-13

**Amending ST2 Plan funds for City of Bothell's NE 185th Street Improvements project.**

| Meeting: | Date: | Type of action: | Staff contact: |
|---|---|---|---|
| System Expansion Committee | 4/13/2023 | Recommend to Board | Ron Lewis, Executive Director, DECM |
| Board | 4/27/2023 | Final action | **Bernard van de Kamp, Program Executive Bus Rapid Transit**<br>Nazanin Samimi, Project Manager |

## Proposed action

Amends the Sound Transit 2 plan to use funds from the Bothell transit center/park-and-ride project towards the NE 185th Street Improvement project in downtown Bothell to improve pedestrian access, rider experience, and operations for the SR 522/NE 145th Street Bus Rapid Transit project.

## Key features summary

- As part of Sound Transit's ST2 Plan, $5 million was designated as a capital contribution for a transit center/park-and-ride project in the vicinity of SR 527/Bothell Way NE and NE 185th Street in the downtown Bothell area.
- The city subsequently built a new City Hall on the site originally considered for transit center and park-and-ride facilities. The new City Hall did not include transit investments. The city has since embarked on major downtown redevelopment and designated NE 185th Street as part of its transit corridor.
- The Board included the intersection and roadway improvements to improve project speed and reliability along NE 185th Street and Beardslee Boulevard in Bothell when selecting the project to be built for the SR 522/NE 145th Street Bus Rapid Transit Project in 2021.
- NE 185th Street will need to be replaced due to the change in function. If it is not done prior to implementing transit use, it will deteriorate rapidly. Rebuilding the road after beginning operation of the Sound Transit Stride S3 line and transitioning Community Transit and King County Metro routes to NE 185th Street will result in major impacts to transit. The city has made significant investments in reconstructing downtown streets that are part of the transit corridor.
- Sound Transit staff and the city staff co-signed a concurrence letter on July 28, 2022, that confirmed Sound Transit's interest in providing a financial contribution to the NE 185th Street Improvement Project that would better prepare the local street for use as a transit corridor.
- Amending the ST2 plan is necessary to allocate funds intended for a transit center to roadway improvements that fulfil the stated purpose of the Bothell Transit funding project adopted with ST2.
- A separate action, Motion No. M2023-33, would authorize the chief executive officer to enter into a Funding Agreement with the City of Bothell for contribution to the NE 185th St. Improvements.

## Background

On Nov. 4, 2008, voters of the Central Puget Sound region approved the Sound Transit 2 ballot measure. The plan adds regional express bus and improves rider access to transit service operating in the SR 522 corridor through capital contribution to a parking garage/transit center in the vicinity of SR 527/Bothell Way NE in the downtown Bothell area. The capital contribution for a "transit center/park-and-ride" project would have been $5 million.

In 2015, the city built a new City Hall without transit access improvements on the site originally considered for transit center and park-and-ride Facilities. The city has since embarked on major downtown redevelopment and designated NE 185th Street as part of its transit corridor.

ST3 included SR 522 BRT (S3 line) to serve downtown Bothell using the city's transit corridor.

In 2019, through the Board's adoption of the 2020 Budget and Transit Improvement Plan via Resolution No. R2019-30, the $5,000,000 was transferred to the SR 522/NE 145th Street BRT Project to upgrade NE 185th Street which is a portion of the city's transit corridor.

In 2021, the Sound Transit Board identified the SR 522/NE 145th Street BRT Project to be built as described in Board Resolution No. R2021-07, which is currently in the final design phase. The project adopted by the Board included the intersection and roadway improvements to improve project speed and reliability along NE 185th Street and Beardslee Boulevard in Bothell.

Sound Transit and the city executed a Partnering Agreement on June 12, 2018, and a Project Administration Agreement on October 3, 2022, to document and confirm a mutual understanding of terms and conditions to advance the implementation of the SR 522/NE 145th Street BRT Project.

Sound Transit staff and the city staff co-signed a concurrence letter on July 28, 2022, that confirmed Sound Transit's interest in providing a financial contribution to the NE 185th Street Improvement Project that would better prepare the local street for use as a transit corridor.

NE 185th Street will need to be replaced due to the change in function. If it is not done prior to implementing transit use, it will deteriorate rapidly. Rebuilding the road after launching the Sound Transit Stride S3 line and transitioning Community Transit and King County Metro routes to NE 185th Street will result in major impacts to transit. The city has made significant investments in reconstruction downtown streets that are part of the transit corridor.

Amending the ST2 plan is necessary to expend funds intended for a transit center to roadway improvements that fulfil the stated purpose of the Bothell Transit funding project adopted with ST2.

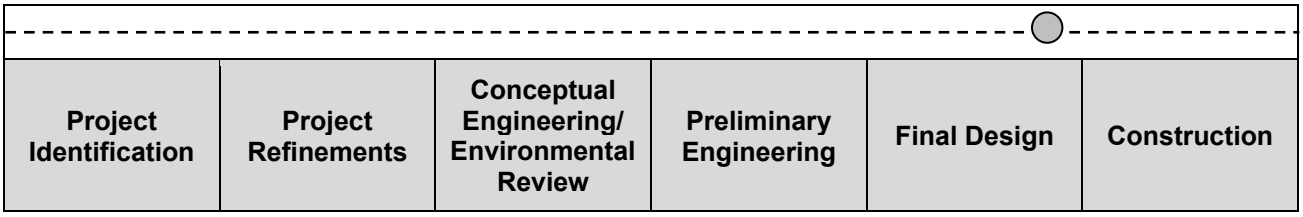
Resolution No. R98-22 establishes six criteria to evaluate a proposed revision to Sound Move, which are:

1. Consistency with Sound Transit's enabling legislation.
2. Consistency with Sound Transit's funding requirements and priorities.
3. Consistency with the proposition approved by voters in the November 1996 election.
4. Consistency with and support of the transportation goals, commitments, projects and corridors served in Sound Move.
5. Adequacy of environmental review completed under SEPA and/or NEPA, either as part of the 1993 System Plan EIS or otherwise.
6. Extent to which the proposed revision has been reviewed and supported by the subarea(s), local jurisdictions and community.

All six criteria established for amendments to the Sound Move program have been met for this proposed amendment to the ST2 plan.

The city is estimating the design and construction of the NE 185th Street Improvement Project to be $5.5 million and has requested Sound Transit provide a one-time not to exceed amount of $5 million for this work.

## Project status




Projected completion date for the final design phase: Q4 2023

Project scope, schedule and budget summary are located on page 158 of the February 2023 Agency Progress Report.

## Fiscal information

As discussed in the Key Features and Background, Bothell Transit Related Improvements was approved by the voters as part of the ST2 program. The Bothell Transit Related Improvements budget was established as a standalone project by the Board in 2015 and as part of the 2020 Budget process the project was rolled into the SR-522 Bus Rapid Transit project. While the $5,000,000 is earmarked in the project budget, the specific scope is being modified for future use.

## Disadvantaged and small business participation

Not applicable to this action.

## Public involvement

Sound Transit is committed to proactively seeking public input during all stages of the project. The SR 522/145th BRT Community Engagement and Communication Guide establishes a stakeholder engagement process that helps ensure priorities of local communities are heard and considered along with the project-wide goals. Agency staff have collaborated with elected officials, partner staff and adjacent property owners during the project. Sound Transit is working closely with the city on the SR 522/145th Street BRT Project. During the COVID-19 pandemic, Sound Transit leveraged virtual platforms to provide project updates to the public, and facilitate briefings and meetings with neighborhood associations, IAG (Interagency Group) members, and stakeholders.

## Time constraints

A one-month delay would not create a significant impact to the project schedule; however, it would delay the approval of the Funding Agreement with the city.

## Prior Board/Committee actions:

Motion No. 2022-78: Authorized the chief executive officer to 1) execute a Project Administration Agreement with the City of Bothell for the Stride BRT project, and 2) execute task orders that are consistent with the agreement and do not exceed a combined total of $5,000,000.

Resolution No. R2021-07: Selected the route, roadway improvements, and station locations for the State Route 522/NE 145th Bus Rapid Transit Project.

Resolution No. R2019-30: Adopted an annual budget for the period from January 1 through December 31, 2020 and adopted the 2020 Transit Improvement Plan.

_____

**Environmental review –** KH 3/29/23

**Legal review –** MT 3/31/23

SOUNDTRANSIT

# Resolution No. R2023-13

A RESOLUTION of the Board of the Central Puget Sound Regional Transit Authority amending the Sound Transit 2 plan to use funds from the Bothell transit center/park-and-ride project towards the NE 185th Street Improvement project in downtown Bothell to improve pedestrian access, rider experience, and operations for the SR 522/NE 145th Street Bus Rapid Transit project.

WHEREAS, the Central Puget Sound Regional Transit Authority, commonly known as Sound Transit, was formed under chapters 81.104 and 81.112 of the Revised Code of Washington (RCW) for the Pierce, King, and Snohomish Counties region by action of their respective county councils pursuant to RCW 81.112.030; and

WHEREAS, Sound Transit is authorized to plan, construct, and permanently operate a high-capacity system of transportation infrastructure and services to meet regional public transportation needs in the Central Puget Sound region; and

WHEREAS, in general elections held within the Sound Transit district on November 5, 1996, November 4, 2008, and November 8, 2016, voters approved local funding to implement a regional high-capacity transportation system for the Central Puget Sound region; and

WHEREAS, ST2, the plan for expanding high-capacity transit in the Central Puget Sound, includes funding for a capital contribution to transit center/park-and-ride project in the vicinity of SR 527/Bothell Way NE and NE 185th Street in the downtown Bothell area. The capital contribution for a transit center/park-and-ride project would be of $5,000,000; and

WHEREAS, the transit center/park-and-ride project is no longer feasible due to unforeseen changed conditions rending the location unavailable because the City of Bothell has not constructed the transit center/park-and-ride project contemplated in ST2 and instead built a new city hall on the anticipated site of the transit center/park-and-ride; and

WHEREAS, ST3 included SR 522 BRT (S3) to serve downtown Bothell, using the City's transit corridor; and

WHEREAS, the City of Bothell has since embarked on major downtown redevelopment and designated NE 185th Street as part of its transit corridor. NE 185th Street will need to be replaced due to the change in function. If it is not done before implementing transit use, it will deteriorate rapidly.

WHEREAS, Replacing NE 185$^{th}$ Street to support transit use will improve rider access to transit service serving Bothell and operating in the SR 522 corridor as intended by the ST2 transit center/park-and-ride project;

WHEREAS, on July 23, 1998, the Sound Transit Board adopted Resolution No. R98-22, establishing criteria to guide the evaluation of proposals to amend Sound Move and subsequent voter-approved plans; and

WHEREAS, Allocating ST2 funds approved for the Bothell transit center/park-and-ride to replace NE 185th Street in downtown Bothell satisfied the evaluation criteria adopted in Exhibit A to Resolution No. R98-22 (attached), and best achieves the objectives of the ST 2 transit center/park-and-ride project; and

WHEREAS, a two-thirds majority approval of the Sound Transit Board is required to amend ST2.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of the Central Puget Sound Regional Transit Authority that ST2 is amended to include replacement of NE 185th Street in downtown Bothell using funds from the Bothell transit center/park-and-ride project.

ADOPTED by a supermajority of the Board of the Central Puget Sound Regional Transit Authority at a regular meeting thereof held on April 27, 2023.

Dow Constantine
Board Chair

**Attest:**

Kathryn Flores
Board Administrator