



## Motion No. M2024-48

### Intergovernmental Agreement with Community Transit for the provision of Complementary Paratransit Services in support of Snohomish County Link Service

| Meeting:                                  | Date:      | Type of action:    | Staff contact:  |
|---|------------|--------------------|---|
| Rider Experience and Operations Committee | 07/18/2024 | Recommend to Board | Russ Arnold, Deputy CEO, Chief Service Delivery Officer       |
| Board                                     | 07/25/2024 | Final action       | <b>Dave Turissini, Deputy Director of Bus and Paratransit</b> |

### Proposed action

Authorizes the chief executive officer to execute an Intergovernmental Agreement with Community Transit to provide complementary paratransit services in support of the extension of Link light rail into Snohomish County.

### Key features summary

- The Lynnwood Link extension, as part of all Link services, utilized federal funding. Public entities that operate fixed route transit (excluding commuter bus and rail) are responsible to provide Complementary Paratransit Service as prescribed in the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). This agreement provides this service through a contract with Community Transit.
- Sound Transit is required to provide complementary door-to-door paratransit transit services to qualified individuals who wish to travel within a three-quarter mile corridor surrounding a light rail line.
- This agreement will provide continuous, legally required continuity for complementary paratransit service in support of Link services that cross into Snohomish County from King County.
- This agreement will commence on the first day of revenue service operated between Northgate and Lynnwood. Sound Transit will compensate Community Transit based on fifty percent of the ADA required trips in the corridor between the Snohomish County line and the Lynnwood Station. The service area also includes the Shoreline North/185<sup>th</sup> Station, which will serve as a transfer point for paratransit trips between Snohomish and King Counties.
- This agreement will end on December 31, 2025, with options for three additional one-year extensions.

### Background

Complementary paratransit services are required for a fixed route transit system operated by a public entity (except for commuter bus and commuter rail systems). Such services generally transport eligible individuals to and from destinations within a three-quarter mile corridor on either side of the eligible transit service: light rail line, streetcar line or local bus service network, and operate during the same hours as the fixed route system.

The service is directed towards individuals who, because of a disability, cannot use the fixed route or light rail transit system. This includes individuals who cannot navigate the system independently or get

to/from a train station or bus stop. This ability is determined by an eligibility process which will be handled by Pierce Transit as part of this agreement.

Community Transit currently provides a robust complementary paratransit service in support of their own bus network. Sound Transit will be purchasing services from this existing program based on paratransit boarding/alightings within the defined corridor. Sound Transit will split those transportation costs on a 50/50 basis as it currently does for the existing service with King County Metro for Link and Pierce Transit for Tacoma Link.

This agreement was based on the existing complementary paratransit section of the King County Metro agreement for Link services and the similar stand-alone agreement with Pierce Transit. This action extends the existing methodology and payment breakdown to Community Transit.

Failure to provide complementary paratransit services within Snohomish County in support of Link will jeopardize Link funding provided by the FTA and put Sound Transit at risk of legal action for failure to comply with its ADA obligations.

### **Fiscal information**

The Partnering Agreement with Community Transit establishes that Sound Transit will pay fifty percent of paratransit costs. The agreement is fully funded through the Operations Department budget. Funding will also be included in future annual budget requests and does not have an impact on the affordability of the Agency's Finance Plan.

### **Disadvantaged and small business participation**

Not applicable to this action.

### **Public involvement**

Not applicable to this action.

### **Time constraints**

A one-month delay may create a significant impact to the project schedule as the agreement must be in-place prior to the opening of the Lynnwood Link Extension.

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**Environmental review** – EG 6/25/24

**Legal review** – MT 7/8/24



## Motion No. M2024-48

A motion of the Board of the Central Puget Sound Regional Transit Authority authorizing the chief executive officer to execute an Intergovernmental Agreement with Community Transit to provide complementary paratransit services in support of the extension of Link light rail into Snohomish County.

### Background

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**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 Intergovernmental Agreement with Community Transit to provide complementary paratransit services in support of the extension of Link light rail into Snohomish County.

APPROVED by the Board of the Central Puget Sound Regional Transit Authority at a regular meeting thereof held on July 25, 2024.

  
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Dow Constantine  
Board Chair

**Attest:**

  
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Kathryn Flores  
Board Administrator