

Motion No. M2025-17

Contract Award for Engineering Design Services for the West Seattle Link Extension project

Meeting:	Date:	Type of action:	Staff contact:
System Expansion Committee Board	04/10/2025 04/24/2025	Recommend to Board Final action	Terri Mestas, Deputy CEO, Capital Delivery Brad Owen, Executive Director Dirk Bakker, Senior Design Manager

Proposed action

Authorizes the chief executive officer to execute a contract with Jacobs Engineering Group, Inc for Phase 1 Civil Engineering Design Services for the West Seattle Link Extension in the amount of \$24,791,877, with a 10 percent contingency of \$2,479,188 for a total authorized amount not to exceed \$27,271,065, contingent upon adoption of Resolution No. R2025-10.

Key features summary

- The Civil Engineering Design Services (EDS) contract will advance the West Seattle Link Extension Project from 30% Preliminary Engineering design to Design Completion (100%) for all segments of the West Seattle Link Extension. All design efforts will focus on affordability and refining, identifying, and implementing cost savings opportunities.
- This action authorizes a contract with Jacobs Engineering Group, Inc. (Jacobs) for the fixed price of \$24,791,877, to provide civil engineering design services for Phase 1 - Advanced Preliminary Engineering and Design Validation Phase for West Seattle Link Extension, with a term of six months.
- Phase 1 consists of three primary workflows:
 - Validation of PE work as well as cost and schedule savings opportunities to develop a refined 30% design;
 - Advancement of design for “Early Works” and early property acquisitions and permitting to support Project schedule; and
 - Development of a cost estimate for the refined 30% design to establish EDS design to budget obligations.
- Phase 2 – Design Development Services and Construction Document Services and Phase 3 – Bid Support and Construction Administration Services are contract options that may be negotiated and exercised at Sound Transit’s sole discretion after Board approval.
- The EDS scope of services does not include systems design.
- Funding and execution of this contract is contingent upon Board authorization of Resolution R2025-10.

Background

The West Seattle Link Extension will build the first operating segment of the 3 Line from the SODO neighborhood to the Alaska Junction neighborhood in West Seattle, adding over 4 miles of light rail service to the Sound Transit system. The project includes four new stations, a bridge over the Duwamish West Waterway, elevated guideways, and a tunnel. The extension will eventually connect to the existing Downtown Seattle Transit Tunnel (DSTT) and provide light rail service between West Seattle and Everett. The West Seattle Link Extension Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) was issued in September 2024. The Federal Transit Administration anticipates issuing its Record of Decision for the project by April 29, 2025.

The Civil Engineering Design Services (EDS) contract for West Seattle Link Extension anticipates three phases. This approach provides the Board with off-ramps between Phase 1 and Phase 2 and then again between Phases 2 and 3. These off-ramps allow the Board to have more control of Project funding, and to more closely monitor the expenditures of the Project relative to the overall ST3 program. Notice to Proceed for the EDS contract Phase 1 is anticipated May 1, 2025.

During the Contract Phase 1 – Advanced Preliminary Engineering and Design Validation Phase: The EDS consultant will validate the PE design and identified cost savings opportunities to develop a refined 30% design. The consultant will also advance preliminary design required for early works and prioritized third-party activities, including permitting, agreements, and ROW and real property acquisitions. The EDS consultant will also develop a cost estimate for the refined 30% design to establish their design to budget obligations and to advance final design to maximize project-level cost savings.

Phases 2 and Phase 3 for WSLE are contract options that may be exercised at Sound Transit's sole discretion, after negotiation and Board approval.

Phase 2 – Design Development Services and Construction Document Services, (a contract option): The EDS consultant would advance the refined 30% design to 100%, collaborate with preconstruction contractors, support project permitting and ROW and real property acquisition, and produce construction documents at design completion.

Phase 3 – Bid Support and Construction Administration Services (a contract option): The EDS would provide design support during construction and continue to collaborate with contractors.

If the option is exercised, during Phase 2, the EDS consultant would advance the design from 30% to 100%, collaborate with preconstruction contractors to further refine cost and schedule savings, and continue to support Project permitting and property acquisition efforts. During Phase 3, if the option is exercised, the EDS consultant would provide design services during construction and continue to provide overall Project design support.

Notice to proceed for West Seattle Link Extension (WSLE) Phase 1 is planned for May 2025, subject to Board approval of this action, with a term of 6 months. Phase 2 scope of services for WSLE is anticipated to be negotiated at the completion of Phase 1 services, and the option submitted for Board approval. If the option is exercised, the 2-year period of performance for Phase 2 services is currently anticipated to be January 2026-December 2027. The scope of services under the EDS contract does not include systems design.

This EDS contract also includes contract options for S Graham Street and/or Boeing Access Road infill stations for each of the three phases of scope of services for one or both of these infill stations. These options may be exercised at the sole discretion of Sound Transit. Exercise of any of these options in the future would require Board approval.

Project status

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Project Identification	Alternatives Identification	Conceptual Engineering/ Draft EIS	Preliminary Engineering/ Final EIS	Final Design	Construction

Projected completion date for [Phase 1]: 4Q 2025; Phase 2: 4Q 2027

Current project status, performance metrics, and additional information are located on page 17 of the February 2025 System Expansion Monthly Status Report.

Procurement information

A Request for Qualifications (RFQ), for the Engineering and Design Services (EDS), contract number RTA/0057-24 was first advertised on May 21, 2024, with a major addendum published on September 25, 2024. Sound Transit received four Statements of Qualifications (SOQs) on November 13, 2024. The SOQs were reviewed and evaluated per the criteria in the RFQ: Firm Experience and History, Knowledge and Experience of Key Individuals, Team Capability, Capacity and Project Organization, Technical Delivery Approach, Inclusion Strategy, and Equal Employment Opportunity (EEO) Commitment. Clauses required for federal funding are included in the contract. Selection is based on qualifications only, as required for A/E professional services. The resulting contract may be a Fixed Price (Lump Sum) contract or Hourly Rates by Position.

There are 5 contract options, that each may be exercised at Sound Transit’s sole discretion, subject to funding and approval of the Sound Transit Board.

- Option 1 to add to the Contract Phase 2 Services, *Design Development Services and Construction Document Services*, as defined in Exhibit A Scope of Work, and extend the Contract term by approximately two (2) years;
- Option 2 to add to the Contract Phase 3 Services, *Bid Support and Construction Administration Services*, as defined in Exhibit A Scope of Work, and extend the Contract term for approximately seven (7) years.
- Option 3 to add to the Contract S Graham Street and/or Boeing Access Road infill stations *Design Validation Services*, as defined in Exhibit A Scope of Work.
- Option 4 to add to the Contract S Graham Street and/or Boeing Access Road infill stations *Design Development Services and Construction Document Services*, as defined in Exhibit A Scope of Work.
- Option 5 to add to the Contract S Graham Street and/or Boeing Access Road infill stations *Bid Support and Construction Administration Services*, as defined in Exhibit A, Scope of Work.

Based on evaluations of the four SOQs, three submitters were invited for day-long interviews and team exercises. Jacobs Engineering Group, Inc. was determined to be the most highly qualified and highest ranked submitter based on qualifications and was invited to submit price proposal and negotiate for Phase 1 EDS WSLE services.

Negotiations took place between January 16 and April 7, 2025. Negotiations were based on the anticipated scope and schedule for Phase 1 services. Sound Transit and Jacobs first agreed on a scope of services based on a draft scope prepared by Sound Transit and various presentations to help clarify

cost savings opportunities to be included with the scope of services. The agreed scope was then used to develop and agree upon a required level of effort for the services.

The parties negotiated a fixed price amount of \$24,791,877 for all Phase 1 WSLE services. The negotiated amount for the Phase 1 services was deemed fair and reasonable by Procurement after thorough review of submitted labor rates, audited overhead rates, negotiated level of effort, estimated other direct costs and other factors, proposed profit, in conjunction with the project team, and after evaluation of and comparison to the Independent Cost Estimate and current market rate data.

Fiscal information

This action is contingent upon Board approval of the West Seattle Link Extension budget amendment outlined in Resolution R2025-10: Budget Amendment for West Seattle Link Extension and Ballard Link Extension Consultant Service Contracts. This is a concurrent action with Motion No. M2025-16: WSBLE Program Management Support Services Contract Extension.

This action authorizes final design expenditures on a project that exceeds the financial plan value according to the 2024 preliminary cost estimate, and therefore potentially impacts the timely deliverability of other system expansion projects. As a result, authorization of this action requires an affirmative two-thirds majority vote of the Board due to Resolution No. R2021-05, Section 6.

The most recent West Seattle Link Extension (WSLE) preliminary cost estimate from 2024 – representing the agency’s estimate at this stage of project development and design – has been projected to be between \$6.7 billion and \$7.1 billion (2024\$). To address rising project costs, the agency has developed a workplan to assess project affordability and explore programmatic, financial, and project-level strategies to improve the agency’s financial position. The impact of the recent preliminary cost estimate is not yet known and will be evaluated as part of this process.

The authorized allocation for the WSLE project is \$331,740,863. Within the \$111,460,000 preliminary engineering phase, \$27,300,000 has been allocated to the budget line item for Jacobs Engineering Group, Inc. (EDS). This action would commit \$27,271,065 (which includes a 10% contingency of \$2,479,188) to this line item and leave a phase budget balance of \$18,814,946.

West Seattle Link Extension

(in thousands)

Project Phase	Authorized Allocation	Board Approvals*	This Action	Total Commitment Plus Action	Uncommitted / (Shortfall)
Agency Administration	\$76,212	\$58,806	\$	\$58,806	\$17,406
Preliminary Engineering	111,460	65,374	27,271	92,645	\$18,815
Final Design	-	-	-	-	-
Third Party	6,087	2,819	-	2,819	3,268
Right of Way	137,982	10,962	-	10,962	127,020
Construction	-	-	-	-	-
Construction Services	-	-	-	-	-
Total	\$331,741	\$137,961	\$27,271	\$165,232	\$166,509

Phase Detail - Preliminary Engineering

Jacobs Engineering Group, Inc (EDS)	\$27,300	\$	\$27,271	\$27,271	\$29
Other Preliminary Engineering	84,160	65,374	-	65,374	18,786
Total Phase	\$111,460	\$65,374	\$27,271	\$92,645	\$18,815

Notes:

Amounts are expressed in Year of Expenditure \$000s.

For detailed project information, see page 141 of the 2025 Adopted Budget & Financial Plan.

* Board Approvals = Commitment and PO Contingency Remaining as of 2/28/2025.

Disadvantaged and small business participation

Participation by small businesses and disadvantaged business enterprises (DBEs)

Sound Transit promotes and encourages small business participation, which also includes disadvantaged business enterprises (DBEs). Consistent with Sound Transit Policies and federal regulations, Sound Transit has established small business/DBE goals for this contract. These goals are based upon an examination of subcontracting opportunities contained in the work of this contract and the number of small businesses/DBEs available to perform such subcontracting work.

For this specific contract, the following goals were set and the successful Bidder/Proposer has committed to the following small business/DBE participation:

Small business and disadvantaged business enterprise (DBE) goals	
DBE goal: 8%	DBE commitment: 7.99% SBE commitment: 11.20%

Public involvement

Sound Transit is committed to actively seeking public feedback at all project stages for the West Seattle Link Extension Project with the overarching goal of fostering public trust through transparent communication, meaningful involvement and being responsive to concerns and issues. The project team will continue reaching out to communities, businesses, stakeholders, and agencies to shape the project by asking questions, holding conversations with project staff and seeking out ideas and comments.

Under this contract the EDS consultant will support Sound Transit with its continued extensive community engagement and outreach for the West Seattle Link Extension project during this Phase 1, including public meetings, briefings, community workshops and drop-in sessions.

Time constraints

A delay of this action will result in day-for-day delay to the Project. This contract execution and corresponding budget authority is required to continue critical path activities for the Project, including the workplan, right of way engineering, and permitting.

Prior Board/Committee actions

Resolution No. R2024-22: Selected the Project to be Built for the West Seattle Link Extension project.

Motion M2024-59: Directed the chief executive officer to develop a workplan on measures the agency will pursue to address rising project costs and inform future baselining decision on the West Seattle Link Extension project.

Environmental review – KH 3/24/25

Legal review – DLB 4/9/25



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A motion of the Board of the Central Puget Sound Regional Transit Authority authorizing the chief executive officer to execute a contract with Jacobs Engineering Group, Inc for Phase 1 Civil Engineering Design Services for the West Seattle Link Extension in the amount of \$24,791,877, with a 10 percent contingency of \$2,479,188 for a total authorized amount not to exceed \$27,271,065, contingent upon adoption of Resolution No. R2025-10.

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Funding and execution of this contract is contingent upon Board authorization of Resolution R2025-10.

Motion

It is hereby moved by the Board of the Central Puget Sound Regional Transit Authority that the chief executive officer is authorized, notwithstanding the provisions of Resolution No. R2021-05, to execute a contract with Jacobs Engineering Group, Inc for Phase 1 Civil Engineering Design Services for the West Seattle Link Extension in the amount of \$24,791,877, with a 10 percent contingency of \$2,479,188 for a total authorized amount not to exceed \$27,271,065, contingent upon adoption of Resolution No. R2025-10.

APPROVED by no less than a 2/3 affirmative vote of the entire membership of the Board of the Central Puget Sound Regional Transit Authority at a regular meeting thereof held on _____.

Dave Somers
Board Chair

Attest:

Kathryn Flores
Board Administrator