



Resolution No. R2024-18

Baseline Budget and Schedule for South Tacoma Station Access Improvements

Meeting:	Date:	Type of action:	Staff contact:
System Expansion Committee	08/08/2024	Recommend to Board	Terri Mestas, Deputy CEO, Chief Capital Projects Delivery Officer
Board	08/22/2024	Final action	Ron Lewis, Executive Director, Capital Delivery Mark Johnson, Project Director, Capital Delivery Heather Pedersen, Project Manager

Proposed action

Adopts the South Tacoma Station Access Improvements project baseline schedule and budget by (a) increasing the authorized project allocation by \$61,167,000 from \$9,200,000 to \$70,367,000, (b) increasing the annual project budget by \$1,102,287 from \$1,872,713 to \$2,975,000, and (c) establishing an open for service date of Q4 2030.

Key features summary

- This action adopts the baseline schedule and budget to construct non-motorized improvements to improve access to the South Tacoma station located at 5650 S. Washington Street, Tacoma, WA 98409.
- In March 2024, the Board selected the improvements to be built for the project, including six miles of bicycle facilities and sidewalks to be constructed by the City of Tacoma, and station improvements, including ADA improvements, curb ramp and sidewalk improvements, wayfinding improvements, and installation of a PA system to be constructed by Sound Transit.
- Establishing the project baseline will allow execution of a funding agreement with the City of Tacoma under which the city will deliver improvements located in city rights-of-way. The City is ready to proceed with final design when the funding agreement is executed.
- The South Tacoma Station Access Improvements project's proposed baseline budget of \$70,367,000 (YOE\$) will provide agency administration, design, acquisition of right-of-way, construction, construction services, and third-party activities.

Background

In November 2008, voters approved access improvements to South Tacoma Station as part of the ST2 ballot measure to expand mass transit throughout the region. Subsequently, the Sounder Station Access Study was conducted to identify potential access improvements at Sounder stations. However, funding for the South Tacoma access improvements was suspended due to reduced revenue during the 2008-09 recession. The Sound Transit Board restored funding for the Sounder South Tacoma Station Access Improvements in January 2020. Later in 2020, the agency went through a process to realign the capital program due to impacts from the COVID-19 pandemic. The South Tacoma Station project began Phase 1 – Alternatives Analysis starting in March 2021. At the conclusion of the realignment process,

the project was identified as a Tier 1 project, and staff were able to complete Phases 1 and 2 of the project.

During Phase 1 – Alternatives Analysis, Sound Transit, in collaboration with City of Tacoma, Pierce Transit, and Pierce County, assessed current conditions for walking, rolling, and taking transit to and from South Tacoma Station. A list of improvements was identified and evaluated, including pedestrian, bicycle, pick-up/drop-off, parking, and transit integration improvements. Equity was emphasized in the goals and criteria used in the evaluation of the proposed improvements. The three key criteria were:

- Providing a benefit to underserved communities
- Address a major barrier to access
- Proximity to the station

At the conclusion of Phase 1, two groups of improvements were identified for further study:

- Priority 1 (higher performing) – these improvements scored high on the 3 key criteria with a focus on providing connections to underserved communities
- Priority 2 (middle-performing) – these improvements scored high on at least 2 of the 3 key criteria with a focus on providing connections to underserved communities

In March 2022, the Sound Transit Board was consulted on the identified list of improvements to bring forward into Phase 2 – Conceptual Engineering and Environmental. During Phase 2, a conceptual design and conceptual cost estimate were completed on all the proposed improvements on the Priority 1 and 2 list. A Quantitative Risk Assessment was conducted on the conceptual cost estimate. A Value Engineering Workshop was also conducted. Sound Transit evaluated these improvements and issued a Determination of Nonsignificance and supporting environmental documents under the State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA) in February 2024.

In March 2024, the Sound Transit Board of Directors amended the ST2 plan to remove added parking as a potential access improvement and selected a set of non-motorized improvements to construct. Sound Transit will do the final design and construction of the improvements located in the Sound Transit right-of-way and the City of Tacoma will do the final design and construction of improvements located in City right-of-way.

The funding agreement to be executed with the City of Tacoma will have a capped, maximum contribution that the City will use for improvements in their right-of-way with the Priority 1 items delivered first, then if there are funds remaining, progress to Priority 2 improvements.

Priority 1 improvements are generally as follows; the specific extent and details of improvements will be refined during final design:

- **Station accessibility and safety upgrades** – includes curb ramp retrofits, shelter retrofits, a public address system, addition of bird deterrents and improvements for enhanced accessibility including additional tactile wayfinding at South Tacoma Station. This also includes improvements of the railroad crossing for pedestrians at S 60th and S 56th streets.
- **S 58th St connections** – adds sidewalks, curb ramps, and protected bike lanes from S Washington St. to South Tacoma Way. Improves bicycle and pedestrian crossing at the intersections of South Tacoma Way and S Puget Sound Ave. Provides sidewalks, curb ramps, ADA improvements and bike boulevard treatments from South Tacoma Way to S Lawrence St. Includes wayfinding signage on South Tacoma Way to the South Tacoma Station.
- **S 60th St connections** – adds protected bike lanes on the north side of S 60th St. from S Adams St. to South Tacoma Way and then transitions to a bike boulevard from South Tacoma Way to S

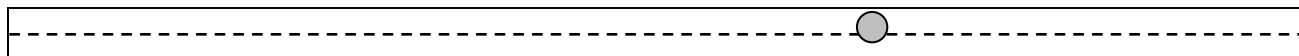
Puget Sound Ave. The intersection of S 60th St. and South Tacoma Way will be upgraded to a signalized pedestrian and bike crossing. The intersection of S 60th St. and S Puget Sound Ave will also be upgraded with pedestrian and bicycle safety treatments. Includes wayfinding signage on South Tacoma Way to the South Tacoma Station.

- **S Adams St connections** – adds a protected bikeway from S 66th St. to S 60th St. by installing a 2-way protected bike lane on the west side of S Adams St. that transitions to a shared use path located on the Metro Parks Tacoma SERA Campus. Completes sidewalks and upgrades curb ramps on the east side of S Adams St. from S 66th St. to S 56th St. and improves the intersection of S 60th St. and S Adams St. Upgrades bus stops at the intersection of S 66th St. and S Adams St.
- **S Pine St protected bike lanes** – provides protected bike lanes on both sides of S Pine St. between S Center St. and S 47th St. by removing a travel lane in each direction.
- **S 56th St walking and bicycle connections** – provides a connection from S 56th St. bike lanes (which end just west of S Tyler St.) to SERA Campus and South Tacoma Station.

Priority 2 improvements are generally as follows; the specific extent and details of improvements will be refined during final design:

- **S 54th St & S Washington St connections** – provides curb ramp and sidewalk improvements at spot locations on S 54th St. and S Washington St. within a half-mile of the station.
- **S Puget Sound Ave connections** – enhances bike lanes on S Puget Sound Ave. between S 54th St. and S 58th St. including bicycle detection at the intersection of S 56th St. and S Puget Sound Ave.
- **S Sprague Ave bicycle connections** – adds bicycle facilities on Sprague Ave. between South Tacoma Way and S 37th St. and bike lanes west on S 37th St. to S Steele St.

Project status



Project Identification	Project Refinements	Conceptual Engineering/Environmental Review	Preliminary Engineering	Final Design	Construction

Projected completion date: Q4 2030

Project scope, schedule and budget summary are located on page 158 of the May 2024 Agency Progress Report.

Fiscal information

This action establishes the baseline budget and schedule for the South Tacoma Access Improvements project. The 2024 annual project budget is increased by \$1,102,287 from \$1,872,713 to \$2,975,000. The authorized project allocation is increased by \$61,167,000 from \$9,200,000 to \$70,367,000.

South Tacoma Access Improvements

(in thousands)

Project Phase	Annual Project Budget			Authorized Project Allocation		
	Adopted 2024 Annual Project Budget	Budget Revision	Revised 2024 Annual Project Budget	Authorized Project Allocation (Current)	Allocation Change	Authorized Project Allocation (New)
Agency Administration	\$382	(\$65)	\$317	\$3,336	\$3,148	\$6,484
Preliminary Engineering	1,392	(971)	421	4,364	(1,161)	3,203
Final Design					2,378	2,378
Third Party Agreements				1,100	(725)	375
Right of Way	99	(79)	20	400	244	644
Construction		2,217	2,217		55,880	55,880
Construction Services					1,403	1,403
Vehicles						
Contingency						
Total	\$1,873	\$1,102	\$2,975	\$9,200	\$61,167	\$70,367

Notes:

Amounts are expressed in Year of Expenditure.

For detailed project information, see page 125 of the 2024 Financial Plan & Adopted Budget.

The proposed baseline budget will fund the project through completion of construction and commissioning and testing by amending the authorized project allocation in the following phases: agency administration, preliminary engineering, final design, third party agreements, right-of-way, construction, and construction services.

The cost of this action is \$61,167,000 in YOES. The proposed baseline budget and schedule for the South Tacoma Access Improvements project align with the financial assumptions outlined in the Financial Plan; this action has a negligible impact to the Agency's Financial Plan and does not materially impact the affordability of any other system expansion project.

Disadvantaged and small business participation

Not applicable to this action.

Public involvement

Sound Transit conducted two rounds of outreach during Phase 1 to introduce the project to the public and solicit input. In April of 2021, staff held an online open house to gather ideas for improving station access. In October of 2021, staff released additional detail on the proposed improvements under study for feedback in an online open house and held a Virtual Question and Answer Session and an information table at the South Tacoma Station. The online open house was translated into two languages: Vietnamese and Spanish. Staff also gave briefings to local public organizations, including the South Tacoma Neighborhood Council, South Tacoma Business District Alliance, and the Asia Pacific Cultural Center. Staff also briefed the City of Tacoma Bicycle Pedestrian Technical Advisory Group and the Tacoma Area Commission on Disabilities. All presentations given during this time included accessibility features.

Staff conducted two rounds of outreach during Phase 2 to continue to share updates with the community and solicit input as designs advanced. In fall 2022, staff held an online open house with detailed information on four key proposals, staffed an information table at the STAR Center, and held walking and biking tours of the proposed improvement corridors in South Tacoma in partnership with Downtown on the Go. In late 2023, staff solicited input on how to prioritize among the Priority 2 proposals through an online open house. Staff also staffed information tables at the STAR Center and South Tacoma public library. All online open house materials were translated into Spanish and Vietnamese. While the number of survey respondents was small, there was a preference expressed for more non-motorized improvements over surface parking. This helped inform staff's recommended set of improvements to carry forward.

In future phases of the project, the City of Tacoma will conduct community engagement for the improvements that they are constructing. Sound Transit will provide the City with support and will also be shown as a funding partner on materials published related to these improvements.

Time constraints

A one-month delay would not create a significant impact to the project schedule.

Prior Board/Committee actions

Resolution No. R2024-05: Selected the non-motorized and transit improvements to be built to improve access to the South Tacoma Station as part of the South Tacoma Station Access Improvements Project, amending the ST2 Plan.

Motion No. M2022-19: Authorized the chief executive officer to execute a contract modification with David Evans & Associates to exercise a contract option for consultant services for the South Tacoma Access Improvements Project and Lakewood Access Improvements Project in the amount of \$4,759,995 with a 10 percent contingency, for a new total authorized contact amount not to exceed \$9,389,853.

Resolution No. R2020-20: Amended the Adopted 2020 Budget to create the South Tacoma Access Improvements project by (a) establishing an authorized project allocation in the amount of \$1,534,000 and (b) establishing a 2020 annual project budget of \$189,000.

Motion No. M2020-68: Authorized the chief executive officer to execute contract modifications with David Evans & Associates Inc. for Phase 1 Alternatives Analysis for the Lakewood Station Access Improvements project and the South Tacoma Access Improvements project in an amount of \$1,448,853 with a 10 percent contingency of \$144,885 totaling \$1,593,738, for a new total authorized contact amount not to exceed \$3,312,627, contingent upon Board approval of Resolution No. R2020-19 and Resolution No. R2020-20.

Motion No. M2018-120: Authorized the chief executive office to execute a Sounder Planning and Preliminary Engineering consultant contract with David Evans & Associates to provide planning and engineering consultant services for the Sounder South Capacity Expansion program in the amount of \$1,562,626, with a 10% contingency of \$156,263, for a total authorized contact amount not to exceed \$1,718,889 plus applicable taxes, and contingent on Board approval of Resolution No. R2018-36 authorizing the Sounder South Capacity Expansion program and establishing program allocation and a 2018 annual budget.

Environmental review – KH 6/21/24

Legal review – DLM 8/1/2024



Resolution No. R2024-18

A RESOLUTION of the Board of the Central Puget Sound Regional Transit Authority adopting the South Tacoma Station Access Improvements project baseline schedule and budget by (a) increasing the authorized project allocation by \$61,167,000 from \$9,200,000 to \$70,367,000, (b) increasing the annual project budget by \$1,102,287 from \$1,872,713 to \$2,975,000, and (c) establishing an open for service date of Q4 2030.

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;

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;

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;

WHEREAS, the ST2 Plan included access improvements to the South Tacoma Sounder Station which primarily consisted of a parking structure but the improvements were suspended due to reduced revenue during the great recession;

WHEREAS, funding was restored for the South Tacoma Station Access Improvements project in 2020, and the project was identified as Tier 1 in the 2021 Realignment process;

WHEREAS, the System Expansion Committee and Board were briefed on the South Tacoma Station Access Improvements project in March 2022;

WHEREAS, a State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA) Determination of Nonsignificance (DNS) was issued by Sound Transit on February 14, 2024 for the project;

WHEREAS, the Board selected the South Tacoma Station Access Improvements to be built in March 2024 through adoption of Resolution No. R2024-05 and amended the ST2 Plan to construct identified alternatives to the parking structure to meet rider access demands and needs; and,

WHEREAS, the approval of the Baseline Budget for the South Tacoma Station Access Improvements project will support the development of a funding agreement with the City of Tacoma to deliver significant components of the project.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of the Central Puget Sound Regional Transit Authority that the South Tacoma Station Access Improvements project baseline schedule and budget is adopted by (a) increasing the authorized project allocation by \$61,167,000 from \$9,200,000 to \$70,367,000, (b) increasing the annual project budget by \$1,102,287 from \$1,872,713 to \$2,975,000, and (c) establishing an open for service date of Q4 2030

ADOPTED by a supermajority vote of the Board of the Central Puget Sound Regional Transit Authority at a regular meeting thereof held on _____.

Dow Constantine
Board Chair

Attest:

Kathryn Flores
Board Administrator