

**REGIONAL TRANSIT AUTHORITY**

**MOTION NO. 46  
BACKGROUND AND COMMENTS**

<b>Meeting:</b>	<b>Date:</b>	<b>Agenda Item:</b>	<b>Staff Contact:</b>	<b>Phone:</b>
<b>PGA Committee</b>	<b>11/7/97</b>	<b>No. 5</b>	<b>Sheila Dezarn</b>	<b>206-684-1730</b>
<b>Board of Directors</b>	<b>11/13/97</b> <b>12/11/97</b>	<b>No. 7</b> <b>No. 7C-1</b>	<b>Government Relations Manager</b>	

**ACTION:**

Adoption of the RTA's 1998 Federal Legislative Program.

**BACKGROUND:**

The reauthorization of the Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act of 1991 (ISTEA) is being deferred by Congress for continued deliberation and enactment in 1998. Because of this, the RTA will need to continue its efforts to actively monitor reauthorization issues and proposals that would affect the RTA and to support reauthorization of a balanced, well-funded, multiyear transportation funding bill.

More specifically, the RTA should seek sustained federal investment in the FTA Section 5309 (formerly Section 3) program – which is commonly referred to as the “New Starts” – and to seek maximum flexibility for the RTA to obtain New Start funding for *Sound Move*. In addition to a multiyear authorization, the RTA will submit a request for an appropriation as part of the FY 99 transportation appropriations bill.

Because implementation of the RTA's program of investments will increase next year, the RTA should work even more actively with other local jurisdictions and agencies to identify and jointly pursue other federal funding sources and grant opportunities.

**RELEVANT BOARD POLICIES AND PREVIOUS ACTIONS TAKEN:**

In March 1997, in response to Congress' direction regarding how to structure requests, the RTA submitted an authorization request for a five-year, \$500 million authorization for a program of interrelated projects to fund the light rail project between SeaTac and Northgate (with the Tacoma light rail segment being funded by local dollars) and the commuter rail project between Everett and Lakewood. Because ISTEA reauthorization has been delayed, this request is still pending.

**KEY FEATURES:**

- Continue seeking multi-year New Starts authorization for *Sound Move*.
- Seek FY 99 appropriation.
- Seek to increase the total revenue flowing to this region by partnering with other agencies or jurisdictions for other federal funding sources (i.e., in addition to “New Starts” fund).

**FUNDING:**

N/A

**ALTERNATIVES:**

Board members may have amendments or revisions to propose to the discussion draft.

**CONSEQUENCES OF DELAY:**

The RTA needs to continue actively working with members of our congressional delegation to monitor and respond to issues that may emerge which could significantly affect the RTA’s ability to secure federal funding and to maximize its earmark and annual appropriation. The RTA needs to be prepared to represent its interests to Washington, D.C. by the beginning of 1998.

**Central Puget Sound  
Regional Transit Authority**

**Motion No. 46**

A motion of the Board of the Central Puget Sound Regional Transit Authority for the Pierce, King and Snohomish Counties region adopting the 1998 federal legislative program.

**Background:**

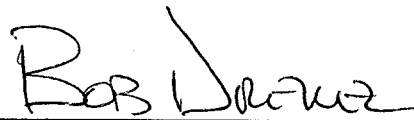
To provide policy guidance to RTA staff and its contracted representatives in Washington, D.C., the Board annually adopts a legislative program and directs staff to regularly report on activities affecting the agency.

**Motion:**

It is hereby moved by the Board of the Regional Transit Authority that the attached 1998 Federal legislative program be adopted.

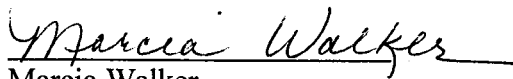
Approved by the Board of the Regional Transit Authority for the Pierce, King, and Snohomish Counties region at a regular meeting thereof on the 11<sup>th</sup> day of December, 1997.

Approved by the RTA Board on 12-11-97 1997.



Bob Drewel  
Board Chair

ATTEST:



Marcia Walker  
Board Administrator

**1998 Federal Legislative Program  
Central Puget Sound Regional Transit Authority**

1. **ISTEA Reauthorization.** Actively support the continuation of a balanced, *multi-year*, multimodal and well-funded transportation funding bill.
2. **“New Starts.”** Actively support appropriate and sustained federal investment in FTA Section 5309 (formerly Section 3) “New Starts” Program.
3. **RTA “New Starts” Authorization.** Monitor development of “New Starts” provisions as part of ISTEA reauthorization and seek to maximize the funding level and the flexibility of the RTA’s “New Starts” authorization for *Sound Move*.
4. **FY 99 “New Starts” Appropriation.** Seek maximum amount of federal appropriation to support *implementation of the RTA’s* light rail and commuter rail *programs* during FY 1999.
5. **Other Federal Funding Sources.** Seek to increase the total revenue flowing to the Central Puget Sound region. Evaluate other federal funding sources and apply for grant funds, if appropriate.
6. **Partnerships.** Support other agency or local jurisdiction programs that complement or are related to the RTA program, such as freight mobility (e.g., grade separation) and economic development.
7. **Monitoring.** Monitor and respond to other issues that may emerge which could affect the RTA.