

SOUND TRANSIT

RESOLUTION NO. R99-14

**Reallocation of Funds from East Everett Park-and-Ride Lot
to Pacific Avenue Overpass Project
BACKGROUND AND COMMENTS**

Meeting:	Date:	Type of Action:	Staff Contact:	Phone:
Finance Committee	5/20/99	Deferred	Agnes Govern, Director, Regional Express	206-398-5037
Finance Committee	6/3/99	Recommend	Michael Normand, Program Manager, Community Connections	206-398-5031
Board of Directors	7/8/99	Board Approval	Approval	

ACTION:

Approval of Resolution R99-14 will reallocate \$10 million (1995 dollars) from the East Everett Park-and-Ride Lot project to the Pacific Avenue Overpass project.

BACKGROUND:

Appendix A of *Sound Move* lists eleven Community Connections projects programmed for Snohomish County, totaling \$96 million (1995 dollars). Included in this amount is \$10 million (1995 dollars) for the Pacific Avenue Overpass project in Everett. Sound Transit and the City of Everett signed a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) in 1998 (Resolution No. R98-40) and are working closely together on the design and construction of this project. At that time, we were aware that the project had a funding shortfall based on an estimate prepared by INCA Engineering, under contract to the city. The MOA stipulated that any budget shortfalls determined through the preliminary engineering phase must be resolved by Sound Transit and the City of Everett prior to initiating final design.

One of the objectives of our project schedule is to coordinate construction of the overpass with construction of Everett Station. Everett Station is a planned multi-modal transit center located south of and adjacent to the overpass project that will serve bus and commuter rail. In order to maintain schedule coordination, we anticipate initiating final design in September 1999. We are currently in the process of negotiating a contract with our consultant, Harding Lawson Associates (HLA), to perform this work. As stipulated in the MOA, we would not initiate final design until any funding shortfalls were resolved.

Preliminary engineering and environmental analyses performed this year have identified an even greater funding shortfall than was previously estimated. We are coming to the Board at this time with the recommendation to move funds from the East Everett Park-and-Ride Lot to the Pacific Avenue Overpass project in order to resolve this funding shortfall and fully fund the project.

Pacific Avenue Overpass

Pacific Avenue is a major east-west corridor between I-5 and downtown Everett, carrying an average of 22,000 vehicles per day. This gateway corridor also provides access to the Port of Everett and the navy base. Construction of the proposed grade-separated crossing would facilitate easier pedestrian and vehicle movement along Pacific Avenue; improve transit, automobile, and pedestrian access to Everett Station; and improve both passenger and freight rail operations in the vicinity of Everett Station.

In July 1998, Sound Transit awarded a contract to HLA to conduct Preliminary Design and Environmental Assessment for the project (Motion No. M98-53). Preliminary engineering work performed over the past eight months has identified issues that have further impacted the project cost. Based on the current project estimate, the project has a funding shortfall of \$9.1 million (1995 dollars). The primary factors contributing to this budget shortfall are:

- The Pacific Avenue overpass structure will need to span three railroad tracks instead of the one that was anticipated and included in the initial cost estimate. This requires the lengthening of the overpass structure by approximately 275 feet.
- The subsurface geotechnical investigation identified a 10- to 20-foot layer of compressible clay beneath Pacific Avenue, requiring a deeper and more costly foundation and support structure.

Sound Transit and the City of Everett have initiated discussions with property and business owners along Pacific Avenue and have discussed two options for scheduling construction with them. The first option is to close Pacific Avenue for one year and construct the overpass in one phase. The second option is to keep Pacific Avenue open and construct the overpass in two stages, over a period of approximately two years. Based on discussions at these meetings, the project team proposes to close Pacific Avenue and reroute traffic while the overpass is constructed, thereby minimizing the impacts and disruption caused by construction in this area. Coordinating the construction schedule with that of Everett Station will further minimize disruptions to area property and business owners.

East Everett Park-and-Ride Lot

The East Everett Park-and-Ride Lot is proposed to provide up to 1,000 surface parking stalls. Per *Sound Move*, this project would be constructed between the years of 2005 and 2006. *Sound Move* allocated \$15 million (1995 dollars) for the construction of this facility. The programmed costs-per-stall for this project are comparable to typical costs-per-stall for a parking structure. The budget assumes that a significant amount of infrastructure would be required to provide access to the site. Additionally, potential remediation of environmental issues at the proposed site (former landfill) were assumed to be part of the project cost. Since adoption of *Sound Move*, the City of Everett has obtained other funding and initiated planning, design, and construction of some of the elements included in the original scope. As a result, the city has requested that a portion of this project's funds be reallocated to the Overpass project.

Conclusion

In order to maintain our schedule for completion of design and construction of the Pacific Avenue Overpass, it is necessary to resolve the funding shortfall for the project at this time. The city has requested that funds programmed for the East Everett Park-and-Ride Lot be used to fully fund the Overpass project. After this reallocation has taken place, funds remaining in the East Everett Park-and-Ride Lot project should be adequate to construct a 1,000-stall surface park-and-ride lot in the Snohomish County area.

RELEVANT BOARD POLICIES AND PREVIOUS ACTIONS TAKEN:

- ◆ Adoption of *Sound Move*, the Ten-Year Regional Transit System Plan (May 31, 1996).
- ◆ Adoption of Resolution R98-4 establishing budget policies for Sound Transit (February 26, 1998).
- ◆ Motion No. 98-53 Contract Award to Harding Lawson Associates to conduct Preliminary Engineering/Environmental Assessment for the Pacific Avenue Overpass project (July 16, 1998).
- ◆ Adoption of Resolution No. 98-40 Memorandum of Agreement with Everett for Pacific Avenue Overpass (July 23, 1998).
- ◆ Adoption of 1999 Budget (November 12, 1998).

EVALUATION OF PROPOSAL:

Reallocation of project budget constitutes a transfer of funds from one capital project to another per Resolution R98-4.

- **Consistency with *Sound Move***
Sound Move calls for a mix of transportation improvements, including Regional Express buses, commuter rail, and light rail, and calls for new community connections in urban and suburban areas for commuters to provide access to new and existing services. Both the Pacific Avenue Overpass project and the East Everett Park-and-Ride Lot project are included in *Sound Move*. This proposal will transfer funds from the East Everett Park-and-Ride Lot to the Pacific Avenue Overpass project to allow for the successful completion of the former project while not compromising the latter. Furthermore, it will support the operations of Sound Transit's commuter rail and regional express programs; as well as Community Transit and Everett Transit service.
- **Subarea Impact**
The proposal would keep the funds within the same subarea (and jurisdiction) as the project whose budget would be reduced. The change will not result in a net change in the subarea expenditures. Benefits to the speed and reliability of Regional Express, as well as Sounder commuter rail, are directly improved by the successful construction of this grade-separated crossing. This project also supports the Railroad Safety Improvement Project administered by the Sounder Commuter Rail Department.

This proposal has been requested by the City of Everett and has the support of the three Snohomish County delegates to Sound Transit's Board. Additionally, HLA and Sound Transit have held an extensive outreach program, holding open houses and meetings with property and business owners. The project has the overall support of the public, with the caveat that construction schedules be coordinated with Everett Station to minimize the amount of time that Pacific Avenue needs to be closed.

KEY FEATURES:

- Reduces the Sound Transit financial contribution to East Everett Park-and-Ride from \$15 million (1995 dollars) to \$5 million (1995 dollars).
- Provides an additional \$10 million (1995 dollars) to the Pacific Avenue Overpass project to fund gaps realized in preliminary design work.
- Will not affect overall subarea expenditures.
- Maintains project schedule objectives.

FUNDING:

The Sound Transit adopted 1999 budget shows authorized project expenditures of \$10 million (1995 dollars) for the Pacific Avenue Overpass project and \$15 million (1995 dollars) for the East Everett Park-and-Ride Lot. Approval of this action would reallocate \$10 million (1995 dollars) from East Everett to the Pacific Avenue Overpass to allow for this project's successful completion. This transfer would occur in December 1999 and be allocated to the construction phase of Pacific Avenue Overpass.

ALTERNATIVES:

- Stop work on the project at this point, and not proceed until other funding sources have been identified.
- Proceed through final design and then delay construction until additional funds are identified.
- Reallocate funds as requested by the city from the East Everett Park-and-Ride Lot project to the Pacific Avenue Overpass project.

CONSEQUENCES OF DELAY:

A delay in decision at this time would impact the critical path of the project and our ability to coordinate favorably with the construction of Everett Station.

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends a reallocation of funds, as requested by the City of Everett, from the East Everett Park-and-Ride Lot project to the Pacific Avenue Overpass project. Staff would update the Board on the budget status of this project prior to advertising for construction. It is estimated that this briefing would take place by December of 1999.

Furthermore, staff recommends a park-and-ride lot analysis to identify whether it is preferable to construct parking spaces allocated for the East Everett Park-and-Ride Lot at a different location.

LEGAL REVIEW:

The Legal Department has reviewed and approved the Background and Comments and Resolution.

SOUND TRANSIT

RESOLUTION NO. R99-14

A RESOLUTION of the Board of the Central Puget Sound Regional Transit Authority to reallocate \$10 million (1995 dollars) from the East Everett Park and Ride Lot to the Pacific Avenue Overpass project.

WHEREAS, the Central Puget Sound Regional Transit Authority is a duly organized regional transit authority existing under RCW Chapters 81.104 and 81.112 and has powers necessary to implement a high capacity transportation system; and

WHEREAS, on November 5, 1996, central Puget Sound area voters approved local funding for *Sound Move*, Sound Transit's ten-year plan for regional high-capacity transit; and

WHEREAS, *Sound Move* calls for the development of the Pacific Avenue Overpass in the City of Everett ("Project") and provides \$10 million (1995 dollars) for the development of the Project; and

WHEREAS, the proposed Pacific Avenue Overpass is consistent with Sound Transit's statutory authority to implement a high capacity transportation system pursuant to Chapters 81.104 and 81.112 RCW; and

WHEREAS, *Sound Move* calls for the construction of a Park-and-Ride Lot between 41st and 36th Street and the Snohomish River and I-5 in East Everett, and provides \$15 million (1995 dollars) for this construction; and

WHEREAS, information received during the preliminary design process for the Project identified a projected funding gap of \$9.1 million (1995 dollars); and

WHEREAS, a budget transfer is necessary to reallocate funds from the East Everett Park-and-Ride Project to the Pacific Avenue Overpass to be addressed through the FY 2000 budgeting process; and

WHEREAS, the Board adopted Resolution No. R98-4 establishing budget policies for Sound Transit; and

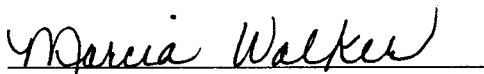
WHEREAS, it is in the best interest of Sound Transit to fund the Pacific Avenue Overpass project in furtherance of the development of community connections improvements to improve links in urban and suburban areas for commuters to connect to most regions; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Central Puget Sound Regional Transit Authority that \$10 million (1995 dollars) be reallocated from the East Everett Park-and-Ride Lot project to the Pacific Avenue Overpass project.

ADOPTED by the Board of the Central Puget Sound Regional Transit Authority at a regular meeting thereof held on the 8th day of July, 1999.


Paul E. Miller
Board Chair

ATTEST:


Marcia Walker
Board Administrator