

**SOUND TRANSIT  
STAFF REPORT**

**MOTIONS NO. M2001-91 AND M2001-92**

**Phase II Preliminary Engineering and Environmental Documentation for  
Renton HOV Improvements Project**

<b>Meeting:</b>	<b>Date:</b>	<b>Type of Action:</b>	<b>Staff Contact:</b>	<b>Phone:</b>
Finance Committee	9/6/01	Discussion Possible Action	Agnes Govern, Director, Regional Express	(206) 398-5037
			Jim Edwards, Program Manager, Capital Projects	(206) 398-5436
			Tracy Krawczyk, Project Manager, Capital Projects	(206) 689-4906

**OBJECTIVE OF ACTION**

- To authorize work on Phase II preliminary engineering and environmental documentation (PE/ED) efforts for the Renton HOV Improvements Project for an HOV direct access interchange on I-405 at N 8th Street. This work includes completion of 30% design documentation and the preparation of environmental review documentation in compliance with federal and state requirements.

**ACTION**

This action is comprised of two separate motions:

- Motion No. M2001-91 authorizes the Executive Director to execute a contract with CH2M HILL to provide engineering and environmental review services for Phase II of PE/ED on the Renton HOV Improvements Project for an amount of \$3,693,438 with a 10% contingency reserve of \$369,344. The total not to exceed amount being requested for this motion is \$4,062,782.
- Motion No. M2001-92 authorizes the Executive Director to execute a supplemental agreement with the Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) for agency project services during Phase II of PE/ED on the Renton HOV Improvements Project for \$627,112 with a 10% contingency reserve of \$62,711. The total not to exceed amount being requested for this motion is \$689,823.

The total amount being requested for approval for Phase II PE/ED for the Renton HOV Improvements Project is \$4,752,605. Previously, the Finance Committee authorized \$953,951 for Phase I PE/ED efforts (alternative analysis). This action would bring the total amount authorized for Phase I and II PE/ED efforts to \$5,706,556.

## KEY FEATURES

### **Highlights of Action:**

- Updates the Board on Phase I PE/ED efforts (public outreach and alternative analysis) for the Renton HOV Improvements Project, leading to the recommendation of a new HOV direct access interchange at I-405 and N 8th Street in north Renton.
- Request authorization to execute a contract with CH2M HILL and a supplemental project agreement with WSDOT to begin work on Phase II of PE/ED for the Renton HOV Improvements Project. This work will include the development of project design to 30% and the evaluation and documentation of potential environmental impacts caused by this project.
- Provides a summary of tasks to be completed during Phase II PE/ED.

## BUDGET

Column A	Column B	Column C	Column D	Column E (B-[C+D])
Total Project Budget	Budget for PE/ED Phase	Obligated to Date	Total Amount Requested	Budget Remaining for PE/ED
\$84,404,000	\$6,698,000	\$1,310,869	\$4,752,605	\$634,526

All figures shown are in year of expenditure (YOE\$)

The budget amounts shown are based on the 2001 Adopted Budget (reference project numbers 150 and 155 combined, pages 183 and 184 of the budget document). Column A includes the total project budget and Column B includes budget for preliminary engineering and environmental design only. Obligated to date includes funds that have been spent and committed through July 31, 2001.

## FINANCIAL IMPACTS

**Impact on Current Year Budget: Approximately:** 15% of the amount requested will be spent in 2001, which will leave adequate budget (approximately \$1.5 million) for other work planned for this project in 2001.

**Impact on Sound Move Budget: Scope** of work and cost are within the Sound Move budget.

**Impact on Cost-to-Complete:** N/A

**Impact on Subarea(s) Budget(s):** N/A

## HISTORY OF PROJECT

Sound Move, The Ten-Year Regional Transit Plan, originally included two HOV direct access projects in the East subarea within Renton: I-405 at Park Avenue in north Renton and I-405 at Talbot Road in south Renton. These projects were envisioned to improve transit speed and reliability between the regional freeway system and the Renton urban core, including the

Downtown Renton Transit Center, as well as to enhance carpool and vanpool access to major employment centers.

In May 2000, the Finance Committee authorized Phase I PE/ED efforts to conduct public outreach and alternative analysis for the two projects. The alternative analysis evaluated nearly 30 project concepts, leading to the recommendation of the I-405 at N 8th Street project in lieu of the Park Avenue project in north Renton. Identification of potential south end improvements has been deferred pending the outcome of the I-405 Corridor Program and a Rainier Avenue corridor study, lead by WSDOT and the City, respectively, and cost estimate refinements for the I-405 at N 8th Street interchange project.

On August 9, 2001, the Sound Transit Board approved a change to Sound Move to combine the budgets of the two Renton projects, rename the project as the Renton HOV Improvements Project, and eliminate the I-405 at Talbot Road project. Based on the 2001 Adopted Budget, the combined project budget is \$84.4 million in YOES\$.

Phase II PE/ED efforts for the HOV interchange at I-405 and N 8th Street will include the following tasks:

- Community outreach
- Basemapping and topographical field surveys
- Horizontal and vertical design plans
- Geotechnical analysis, including a soils report
- Traffic analysis
- Hydraulic investigations
- Clear zone inventory
- Preparation of an interstate Added Access Report
- Development of 30% design drawings
- Preparation of a Design File for WSDOT
- Environmental documentation (to comply with the National and State Environmental Policy Acts (NEPA and SEPA) – Environmental Assessment level of documentation)

**CH2M Hill Contract:**

In late 1999, Sound Transit received statements of qualifications from 13 firms proposing to contract for preliminary engineering and environmental documentation services for the Renton and Eastgate HOV direct access projects. Based upon written submittals, four qualified applicants were selected for interviews. CH2M HILL was selected for the Renton projects, based on the experience of the firm and the knowledge of their staff. The scope of work for Phase II has been developed among Sound Transit and WSDOT staff and the consultant team.

**WSDOT Supplemental Agreement:**

The WSDOT scope of work provides for agency support of all the tasks outlined for the consultant, including processing of documents submitted for review and/or approval and provision of agency guidance to the PE/ED consultant. Phase II efforts are to be completed by early 2003. Upon completion of Phase II PE/ED, staff will request approval of the Finance Committee to proceed with the Final Design phase.

## Prior Board or Committee Actions and Relevant Board Policies

Motion/Resolution Number	Summary of Action	Date of Action
R2001-09	Amending Sound Move by: combining the two Renton HOV project budgets and renaming as Renton HOV Improvements Project	8/9/01
M2000-37	Execution of a contract with CH2M HILL for Phase I of PE/ED, for a total not to exceed amount of \$821,157.	5/18/00
M2000-38	Execution of an agreement with WSDOT for agency project services for Phase I of PE/ED, for a total not to exceed amount of \$132,794.	5/18/00

The total amount being requested for approval at this time is \$4,752,605. Previously, the Finance Committee authorized \$953,951 for Phase I PE/ED efforts (alternative analysis). This action would bring the total amount authorized for Phase I and II PE/ED efforts to \$5,706,556, including \$4,883,939 for CH2M Hill and \$822,617 for WSDOT.

### **CONSEQUENCES OF DELAY**

- Action is needed before work on this next phase of PE/ED can begin. Delay in making a decision will directly affect the ability to complete the Renton HOV Improvements Project within the established Implementation Guide 2006 completion date.

### **REGIONAL PARTNERSHIP AND COOPERATION**

- A Project Management Team (PMT) comprised of technical staff from Sound Transit, WSDOT, the City of Renton, and King County/Metro Transit has been established for this project. Over the past year, this group has met to identify and evaluate project concepts that best provide for transit, carpool, and vanpool needs.
- An Executive Advisory Committee (EAC) has been established for this project, comprised of key agency management staff and Renton business and community leaders. The EAC meets at key project milestones to advise Sound Transit and the PMT.

### **PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT**

During Phase I of PE/ED, the project team sponsored two open houses and distributed four newsletters and/or postcards, including simultaneous publication in a citywide newspaper. Briefings have been held with several local organizations, including the Renton City Council, the Renton Chamber of Commerce, and business and various neighborhood associations. A web page has been established which is updated at project milestones.

A third open house is scheduled for the end of September to request public feedback as the project team begins work on the environmental analysis. A newsletter and web page update will be developed as part of this effort.

### **LEGAL REVIEW**

MBL 8/21/01

**SOUND TRANSIT  
MOTION NO. M2001-91**

A motion of the Finance Committee of the Central Puget Sound Regional Transit Authority authorizing the Executive Director to execute a contract with CH2M HILL to provide Phase II preliminary engineering and environmental documentation services for the Renton HOV Improvements Project, for \$3,693,438 with a 10% contingency reserve of \$369,344 for a total authorized amount not to exceed \$4,062,782.

**Background:**

Sound Move originally identified two high-occupancy vehicle (HOV) direct access projects in Renton: I-405 at Park Avenue and I-405 at Talbot Road. The intent of these projects was to improve HOV access between the regional freeway system and the Renton urban core, including the Downtown Renton Transit Center.

In May 2000, the Finance Committee authorized Phase I preliminary engineering and environmental documentation (PE/ED) services to conduct public outreach and an alternative analysis for the two HOV direct access projects. Nearly 30 project concepts were studied, leading to the recommendation of an HOV direct access interchange on I-405 at N 8th Street in north Renton in lieu of a project at Park Avenue. Identification of south end improvements, in lieu of improvements on I-405 at Talbot Road, has been deferred pending the outcome of the I-405 Corridor Program and a Rainier Avenue corridor study, lead by WSDOT and the City, respectively, and cost estimate refinements for the I-405 at N 8th Street interchange project.

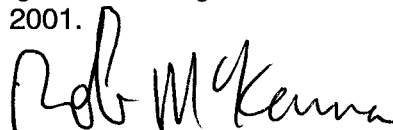
On August 9, 2001, the Sound Transit Board amended Sound Move to combined the budgets for the I-405 at Park Avenue and I-405 at Talbot Road projects to create the Renton HOV Improvements project and to eliminate the I-405 at Talbot Road project.

This motion would secure the consultant services of CH2M HILL through Phase II of PE/ED for the I-405 at N 8th Street component within the Renton HOV Improvements Project. Tasks to be completed include documentation of 30% design and preparation of environmental documentation.

**Motion:**

It is hereby moved by the Finance Committee of the Central Puget Sound Regional Transit Authority that the Executive Director be authorized to execute a contract with CH2M HILL to provide Phase II preliminary engineering and environmental documentation services for the Renton HOV Improvements Project for \$3,693,438 with a 10% contingency reserve of \$369,344 for a total amount not to exceed \$4,062,782.

Approved by the Finance Committee of the Central Puget Sound Regional Transit Authority at a regular meeting thereof on the 6th day of September, 2001.



Rob McKenna  
Finance Committee Vice Chair

ATTEST:



Marcia Walker  
Board Administrator