

SOUND TRANSIT

MOTION NO. M2007-36

A motion of the Board of the Central Puget Sound Regional Transit Authority authorizing staff to expand the scope of the feasibility study of the proposed grade separation of the Sounder commuter rail track across Pacific Avenue to consider an additional alternative alignment, including preliminary engineering, environmental analysis and outreach to affected property owners.

Background:

Motion No. M2006-34, approved April 20, 2006 authorized staff to conduct a feasibility study for a proposed grade separation of the Sounder commuter rail track between D Street and M Street. The feasibility study, including engineering and supporting environmental investigation, focused on a single alternative for crossing Pacific Avenue in Tacoma, Washington, along an alignment located primarily in public right-of-way.

During the development of the feasibility study an alternative previously dropped from study due to public opposition has gained broad support from the community, business owners, city staff and the Tacoma City Council. Preliminary engineering, environmental analysis and public outreach are needed to evaluate this alternative.

Preliminary cost estimates for both alternatives are substantially greater than the existing project budget. Staff will work to identify funding partners to help share in the additional costs as the engineering studies and cost estimates for the additional alternative are being refined.

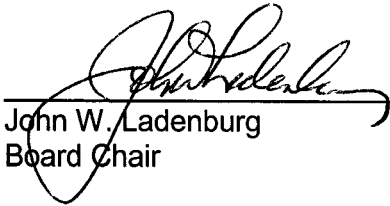
Property acquisition for both alternatives creates the highest risk to the project schedule. To mitigate this risk, real estate staff will accelerate ordinary due diligence on real estate acquisitions within all alignments being considered, consistent with legal limits.

Staff will return to the Board later this year to seek contract amendments to the HDR Engineering and Herrera Environmental contracts to fund the work if adequate funding is not available in the current contracts.

Motion:

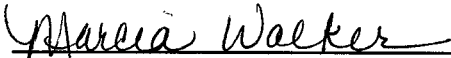
It is hereby moved by the Board of the Central Puget Sound Regional Transit Authority that staff is authorized to expand the scope of the feasibility study of the proposed grade separation of the Sounder commuter rail track across Pacific Avenue to consider an additional alternative, including preliminary engineering, environmental analysis and outreach to affected property owners.

APPROVED by the Board of the Central Puget Sound Regional Transit Authority at a regular meeting thereof held on February 22, 2007.



John W. Ladenburg
Board Chair

ATTEST:



Marcia Walker
Board Administrator