

**SOUND TRANSIT
STAFF REPORT**

RESOLUTION NO. R2008-16

Amending Sound Move to Remove the Star Lake Freeway Station Project

Meeting:	Date:	Type of Action:	Staff Contact:	Phone:
Finance Committee	11/20/08	Discussion/Possible Action to Recommend Board Approval	Jim Edwards, Director Capital Projects	206-398-5450
Board	12/11/08	Action	Hank Howard, Project Manager	206-398-5078

Contract/Agreement Type:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Requested Action:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Competitive Procurement		Execute New Contract/Agreement	
Sole Source		Amend Existing Contract/Agreement	
Agreement with Other Jurisdiction(s)		Budget Amendment	
Real Estate		Property Acquisition	

PROJECT NAME

Star Lake Freeway Station Project

PROPOSED ACTION

Amends Sound Move by removing the Star Lake Freeway Station project

KEY FEATURES of PROPOSED ACTION

- Sound Move contemplated construction of HOV access improvements at I-5 and South 272nd Street.
- Sound Transit and project stakeholders have been unsuccessful in identifying a design concept for the Star Lake Freeway Station project within the budget assumed in Sound Move.
- A financially feasible project with demonstrable transit benefits has not been identified at this time. The project as described in Sound Move cannot be accomplished.
- After evaluating the project against the criteria described in Resolution No. R98-22 for amending Sound Move, staff recommends the Board amend Sound Move by removing the project and direct that the project be deleted as part of the 2009 Adopted Budget.
- If the Board concurs, the project will be closed and approximately \$1 million will be transferred into the South King County Program Reserves as part of the 2009 budget.

BUDGET IMPACT SUMMARY

Current Project Phase: PE/ED
Projected Completion Date: NA

Action Outside of Adopted Budget:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Comments on Checked Items
This Project		
This Phase		
This Task		
Budget Amendment Required	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Transfer remaining budget of \$1M to the South King County Program Reserve in the 2009 budget.
Key Financial Indicators:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Comments on Checked Items
Contingency Funds Required		
Funding required from other parties		

Not checked = action is assumed in current Board-adopted budget. No budget action or adjustment to financial plan required.

BUDGET and FINANCIAL PLAN DISCUSSION

The Adopted 2008 project budget is \$4,112,710 with current commitments equaling \$3,096,483. The initial study concluded that a single-point urban interchange (SPUI) was the preferred design; however, the budget was insufficient to build the full SPUI. A second study conducted determined the project could not be built in stages but must be fully implemented at once. As a feasible project cannot be identified, staff recommends that the project be removed from Sound Move and the remaining project budget transferred to the South King County Program Reserve as part of the 2009 budget.

BUDGET TABLE

Summary for Board Action (Year of Expenditure \$000)

	Adopted 2008 Budget ¹ (A)	Proposed 2009 Budget (B)	Change (C)
131 - Star Lake Freeway Station/S 272nd			
1 Agency Administration	\$ 268	\$ 215	\$ (53)
2 Preliminary Engineering	\$ 1,465	\$ 1,465	\$ -
3 Final Design	\$ 259	\$ 259	\$ -
4 Right of Way	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
5 Construction	\$ 1,157	\$ 1,157	\$ -
6 Contingency	\$ 963	\$ -	\$ (963)
7 Total Current Budget	\$ 4,113	\$ 3,096	\$ (1,016)
8 South King County Program Reserve	\$ -	\$ 1,016	\$ 1,016

Notes:

¹ Project 131 budget is located on page 144 and the South King County Program Reserve budget is on page 174 of the Adopted 2008 Budget book. The 2008 Budget was adopted by the Board on November 29, 2007.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION and BACKGROUND for PROPOSED ACTION

On November 5, 1996, Central Puget Sound area voters approved local funding for Sound Move, the ten-year plan for regional high-capacity transit. The Star Lake Freeway Station project was created as part of this funding approval.

Since 1999, Sound Transit has provided Regional Express bus service to the Star Lake area by way of flyer stops located on the freeway ramp at I-5 and 272nd Street.

Sound Transit has worked with the Cities of Kent and Federal Way, WSDOT, and other project stakeholders for more than ten years to develop a project which meets the needs of all stakeholders. Sound Transit has been unsuccessful in identifying a design concept within the budget assumed in Sound Move and obtaining local funding for the non-transit portion of the project.

The project as identified in Sound Move contemplated construction of HOV access improvements at I-5 and South 272nd Street. Through analysis of various alternatives, the proposed improvement became an in-line station. However, the concepts were found to have several design issues and concerns about low ridership at this location.

In early 2003, a design workshop resulted in two potential sets of improvements acceptable to key stakeholders. The projects were:

1. A Single Point Urban Interchange (SPUI); and
2. Improvements to the northbound and southbound access to/from South 272nd, both with the widening of South 272nd and the freeway station in the median of I-5.

These options were evaluated through a feasibility study conducted in 2003/2004. The feasibility study found the SPUI as the only viable option. The ability to fund the SPUI and associated improvements was identified as a project risk in the feasibility study.

Subsequently, a study was conducted evaluating whether the project could be implemented in stages. In early 2008, an analysis of proposed stage 1 of the SPUI concept found that the revised ramp intersections would be more congested than in their current configurations. However, the operation of the interchange improved significantly with implementation of the full SPUI. These findings indicated the need to fully implement the project, as opposed to staging it.

The cost of full implementation has significantly increased above initial budget due to inflation and additional scope to be funded by WSDOT and other partners. Current estimates for the full scope of work exceed \$100 million.

Funding limitations include the reprogramming of WSDOT's available funding to the 2011-2013 time frame by the State Legislature. To date, the cities of Kent and Federal Way have not committed to any funding beyond a \$1 million grant, which has been obtained by the City of Kent.

In 2005, the Board transferred approximately \$20 million from the Star Lake Freeway Station project to the Airport Link project. The Board indicated that continued participation in the Star Lake project was contingent upon being able to identify a viable project and associated funding plan, with participation by all funding partners, prior to January 1, 2009.

At this time, a financially feasible project with demonstrable transit benefit has not been identified. Therefore, consistent with the criteria described in Resolution No. R98-22 to revise Sound Move, it is recommended this project be removed from Sound Move and the remaining funds be transferred into the South King County Subarea program reserves.

DESCRIPTION OF POLICY

Resolution No. R98-22 establishes six criteria to evaluate a proposed revision to Sound Move, which are:

1. Consistency with Sound Transit's enabling legislation.
2. Consistency with Sound Transit's funding requirements and priorities.
3. Consistency with the proposition approved by voters in the November 1996 election.
4. Consistency with and support of the transportation goals, commitments, projects and corridors served in Sound Move.
5. Adequacy of environmental review completed under SEPA and/or NEPA, either as part of the 1993 System Plan EIS or otherwise.
6. Extent to which the proposed revision has been reviewed and supported by the subarea(s), local jurisdictions and community.

In July 2008, WSDOT and the Cities of Kent and Federal Way were notified of Sound Transit's intent to recommend removing this project as part of the 2009 budget process.

PRIOR BOARD/COMMITTEE ACTIONS

Motion/Resolution Number and Date	Summary of Action
R2005-16 7/14/05	<p>Selects the Airport Link alignment and station locations between Tukwila International Boulevard Station and South 200th Street; selects the portion of Airport Link from the Tukwila International Boulevard Station to Sea-Tac Airport to be constructed and operated as part of the Central Link Light Rail Project by the end of 2009; increases the lifetime Adopted 2005 Budget for Airport Link in an amount of \$225 million for an amended lifetime project budget of \$243.6 million; increases the annual Adopted 2005 Budget for Airport Link in an amount of \$11,241,859 for an amended annual 2005 project budget of \$19,592,054; and for planning purposes, reduces the minimum debt service coverage ratio for the South King County subarea to 1.15x for the Airport Link Finance Plan.</p> <p>This action transferred \$20.7 million from the Star Lake Freeway Station/S 272nd project to the Airport Link project. The Board committed to funding the transit improvements at Star Lake provided a funding plan was completed prior to January 1, 2009.</p>
M2004-96 10/7/04	Directing staff to prepare a proposed 2005 budget for the Star Lake Freeway Station/South 272 nd project consistent with Option Number 2: Maintain the funds within the project budget to allow time for the stakeholders – the cities of Kent and Federal Way and WSDOT – to secure additional funding.
R98-22 7/23/98	Approval of criteria and a process to be used in making revisions to Sound Move.

CONSEQUENCES of DELAY

Not applicable to this action.

PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

Not applicable to this action.

ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE

SSK 10-29-08

LEGAL REVIEW

JW 11/14/08

SOUND TRANSIT

RESOLUTION NO. R2008-16

A RESOLUTION of the Board of the Central Puget Sound Regional Transit Authority amending Sound Move by removing the Star Lake Freeway Station project.

WHEREAS, a Regional Transit Authority, hereinafter referred to as Sound Transit, has been created for the Pierce, King, and Snohomish County region by action of their respective county councils pursuant to RCW 81.112.030; and

WHEREAS, on November 5, 1996, at a general election held within the Central Puget Sound Regional Transit Authority district, the voters approved local funding for Sound Move, the plan for regional high-capacity transit; and

WHEREAS, Sound Move identified a direct access ramp at I-5 and 272nd Street (Star Lake project); and

WHEREAS, Sound Transit has worked with the cities of Kent and Federal Way, the Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT), and other project stakeholders for more than ten years to develop a project which meets the needs of all stakeholders; and

WHEREAS, current cost estimates for the full scope of work exceed \$100 million; and

WHEREAS, funding limitations include the reprogramming of WSDOT's available funding to the 2011-2013 time frame by the state Legislature; and

WHEREAS, the cities of Kent and Federal Way have not committed to any funding beyond a grant in the amount of \$1 million, which has been obtained by the City of Kent; and

WHEREAS, Sound Transit has been unsuccessful in both identifying a design concept within the budget assumed in Sound Move and obtaining local funding for the non-transit portion of the project; and

WHEREAS, the Sound Transit Board indicated that continued participation in the Star Lake project was contingent upon being able to identify a viable project and associated funding plan, with participation by all funding partners, prior to January 1, 2009; and

WHEREAS, a financially feasible project with demonstrable transit benefit has not been identified; and

WHEREAS, on July 23, 1998 the Sound Transit Board adopted Resolution No. R98-22,
establishing criteria to guide the evaluation of proposals to amend Sound Move; and

WHEREAS, the removal of the Star Lake Freeway Station project from Sound Move meets the
evaluation criteria; and

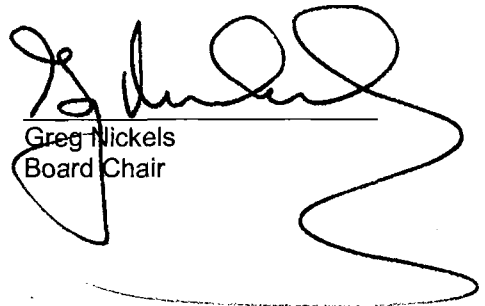
WHEREAS, a two-thirds majority approval of the Sound Transit Board is required to amend
Sound Move.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of the Central Puget Sound Regional
Transit Authority that the Star Lake Freeway Station project is hereby removed from Sound Move.

ADOPTED by the Board of the Central Puget Sound Regional Transit Authority at a regular meeting
thereof held on December 11, 2008.

ATTEST:

Marcia Walker
Marcia Walker
Board Administrator


Greg Nickels
Board Chair