

**SOUND TRANSIT  
STAFF REPORT**

**MOTION NO. M2008-122**

**Agreement with Pierce Transit and City of Auburn  
for Sounder Connector Service**

<b>Meeting:</b>	<b>Date:</b>	<b>Type of Action:</b>	<b>Staff Contact:</b>	<b>Phone:</b>
Finance Committee	12/18/08	Discussion/Possible Action	Bonnie Todd, Director Transportation Services <b>Jim Moore, Project Manager, Service Planning &amp; Development</b>	(206) 398-5367  (206) 398-5045

<b>Contract/Agreement Type:</b>	✓	<b>Requested Action:</b>	✓
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**

Route 497 Lakeland Hills-Auburn Sounder Connector

**PROPOSED ACTION**

Authorizes the chief executive officer to execute a one-year agreement with Pierce Transit and the City of Auburn for operation of bus Route 497 between Lakeland Hills and Auburn Station in the amount of \$116,871, with a 15% contingency of \$17,531 for a total authorized agreement amount of \$134,402.

**KEY FEATURES OF PROPOSED ACTION**

- Under the proposed agreement, Sound Transit would become a partner in a three-way agreement with the City of Auburn and Pierce Transit to provide a new bus route between the Lakeland Hills area and the Auburn Station (Pierce Transit Route 497).
- The Route 497 proposal originated during the development of King County Metro's Service Partnership Program. To reduce King County's costs, the proposed start-up date of Route 497 was delayed by one year. The City of Auburn asked Sound Transit to be an interim funding partner so that the service could begin as soon as possible because of the severity of the commuter parking situation at Auburn Station.
- The operating cost of the route would be split at 40% for Sound Transit, 40% for the City of Auburn and 20% for Pierce Transit. Sound Transit's 40% share is projected to cost \$116,871, plus a 15% contingency for a total of \$134,402 for one year. Pierce Transit would operate the service and would provide the buses.
- The proposed agreement would expire at the end of the first year of Route 497 service. In February 2010, a new three-way agreement would take effect to continue operations, with King County Metro replacing Sound Transit as a funding partner. The governing bodies of King County, Pierce Transit and the City of Auburn have authorized the agreement to continue the service, which covers the period from February 2010 to February 2015.

**BUDGET IMPACT SUMMARY**

There is no action outside of the Board-adopted budget; there are no contingency funds required, no subarea impacts, or funding required from other parties other than what is already assumed in the financial plan.

**BUDGET and FINANCIAL PLAN DISCUSSION**

The proposed action would be funded by the Purchased Transportation element of the ST Express Transit Operations Budget. The Proposed 2009 Budget, as amended includes a total purchased transportation allocation of \$76,407,570. The cost of this agreement would be approximately \$134,402, which would fund Sound Transit's share of the Route 497 operating cost. The service would be operated by Pierce Transit.

As a part of the 2009 Service Implementation Plan, the 2009 Budget includes funding for Sound Transit's share of this agreement. The 2009 Budget was developed assuming rates of \$109.91 per platform hour for Pierce Transit service. The actual rates proposed by Pierce Transit are lower than that, providing the funding for this service.

**BUDGET TABLE**

**Summary for Board Action (X \$1,000)**

**Action Item: Lakeland Hills Route 497 Shuttle**

	(A)	(B)	(C)	(D)
	Proposed 2009 Budget	Committed to Date - 2009	Contract Expenditures 2009	Remaining 2009 Budget
1 <b>Current Year Budget</b>				
1 <b>ST Express Purchased Transportation Budget</b>	76,408	74,000	119	2,289
2 <b>Other ST Express Transit Operations</b>	20,264	N/A	N/A	N/A
3 <b>Total</b>	96,671	N/A	N/A	N/A

**Budget Shortfall**

	Level	Shortfall	Resources	Funding Source
4	N/A	-	-	N/A

	Prior Year(s) Spending	2009 Spending	Future Expenditures	Total
5 <b>Contract Spending Plan</b>				
5 <b>Pierce Transit</b>	-	17,379		-
6 <b>Pierce Transit - Lakeland Hills Shuttle</b>		119	15	134
	-	17,498	15	134

	Current Approved Contract Value	Spent to Date	Proposed Action	Proposed Total Contract Value
7 <b>Contract Budget</b>				
7 <b>Pierce Transit - Lakeland Hills Shuttle</b>	-	-	117	117
8 <b>Contingency</b>	-	-	17	17
9 <b>Total Contract</b>	-	-	134	134
10 <b>Percent Contingency</b>	-	-	15%	0

**Notes:**

The Proposed 2009 Budget for ST Express is included on page 64 of the Proposed Budget Book. The Amended 2009 Budget will be adopted by the Board in December 2008.

**SMALL BUSINESS PARTICIPATION**

Not applicable to this action.

**PROJECT DESCRIPTION and BACKGROUND for PROPOSED ACTION**

Commuter parking at Auburn Station, as with other stations on Sounder's Seattle-Tacoma line, is fully utilized and there are no near-term projects to expand the parking supply. To mitigate neighborhood parking impacts and continue Sounder ridership growth, Sound Transit has been working closely with its partner transit agencies and the City of Auburn to develop and promote alternative ways to access Sounder service.

Surveys of Sounder passengers demonstrated that many train riders live in the Lakeland Hills area, a large residential development that straddles the King-Pierce County boundary and that currently has no transit service. A bus route proposal was developed jointly by Pierce Transit and King County Metro that would provide access to the community with limited stops and two small park-and-ride facilities. Slightly less than half of the route would operate non-stop along "A" Street in Auburn as it approaches Auburn Station. Service would be provided during weekday rush hours only. Schedules would be designed for convenient connections to and from Sounder, and afternoon buses would wait for late trains if Sounder service is delayed.

Daily ridership on Route 497 is estimated to be about 200 boardings, most of whom are expected to be commuters transferring to Sounder or ST Express buses at Auburn Station. With recent development costs for permanent park-and-ride space ranging between \$15,000 and \$40,000 per stall, Sound Transit would benefit by increasing customer access to its service while avoiding immediate investments in new parking facilities.

The Route 497 concept originated during the development of King County Metro's Service Partnership Project, part of the Transit Now program approved by King County voters in 2006. To reduce King County's costs, the start-up date of the Auburn partnership agreement was delayed by one year. Because of the severity of the commuter parking situation at Auburn Station, the City of Auburn asked Sound Transit to be an interim funding partner in order to begin the service as soon as possible. The requested action would authorize the CEO to enter into a one-year agreement with Pierce Transit and the City of Auburn to initiate the proposed service in February 2009. Sound Transit's participation would end after the first year, when a new agreement would take effect between King County Metro, Pierce Transit, and the City of Auburn to continue the service from February 2010 through February 2014. The governing bodies of all three agencies have authorized the 2010-2014 agreement.

**PRIOR BOARD/COMMITTEE ACTIONS**

<b>Motion/Resolution Number and Date</b>	<b>Summary of Action</b>
R2008-18 12/11/08	Adopt the 2009 Service Implementation Plan

**CONSEQUENCES of DELAY**

A delay could result in Sound Transit not having the necessary funding authorization in place for February 9, 2009 service.

**PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT**

Pierce Transit conducted a public hearing for this route on September 8, 2008. The City of Auburn Transportation Improvement Program, of which this project is a part, held a public hearing on August 18, 2008. More recently, the City of Auburn allowed for public comment on the proposal at meetings of the City's Public Works Committee and Finance Committee on November 17, 2008.

**ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE**

SSK 11-20-08

**LEGAL REVIEW**

LA 12/12/08

**SOUND TRANSIT**

**MOTION NO. M2008-122**

A motion of the Finance Committee of the Central Puget Sound Regional Transit Authority authorizing the chief executive officer to execute a one-year agreement with Pierce Transit and the City of Auburn for operation of bus Route 497 between Lakeland Hills and Auburn Station in the amount of \$116,871, with a 15% contingency of \$17,531 for a total authorized agreement amount of \$134,402.

**Background:**

Under this agreement, Sound Transit, the City of Auburn, and Pierce Transit would jointly fund a new bus route between the Lakeland Hills and the Auburn Station (Pierce Transit Route 497). The Route 497 proposal originated during the development of King County Metro's Service Partnership Program. To reduce King County's costs, the proposed start-up date of Route 497 was delayed by one year. The City of Auburn asked Sound Transit to be an interim funding partner so that the service could begin as soon as possible because commuter parking is fully utilized at Auburn Station. The operating costs would be shared at 40% for Sound Transit, 40% for the City of Auburn and 20% for Pierce Transit. Pierce Transit would operate the service and would provide the buses.

The proposed agreement would expire at the end of the first year of Route 497 service. In February 2010, a new three-way agreement would take effect to continue operations, with King County Metro replacing Sound Transit as a funding partner. The governing bodies of King County, Pierce Transit and the City of Auburn have authorized the agreement to continue the service, which covers the period from February 2010 to February 2015.

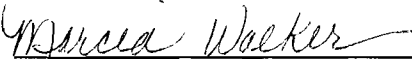
**Motion:**

It is hereby moved by the Finance Committee of the Central Puget Sound Regional Transit Authority that the chief executive officer is authorized to execute a one-year agreement with Pierce Transit and the City of Auburn for operation of bus Route 497 between Lakeland Hills and Auburn Station in the amount of \$116,871, with a 15% contingency of \$17,531 for a total authorized agreement amount of \$134,402.

APPROVED by the Finance Committee of the Central Puget Sound Regional Transit Authority at a regular meeting thereof held on January 8, 2009.

  
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Aaron Reardon  
Finance Committee Chair

ATTEST:

  
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Marcia Walker  
Board Administrator