

MOTION NO. M2010-100
Transferring Operation and Maintenance of ST Express Routes 566 and 577

MEETING:	DATE:	TYPE OF ACTION:	STAFF CONTACT:	PHONE:
Operations and Administration Committee	11/18/10	Recommendation to Board	Bonnie Todd, Executive Director of Operations	206-398-5367
Board	11/18/10	Final Action	Dave Turissini, ST Express Bus Manager	206-398-5035

PROPOSED ACTION

Transfers operation and maintenance of ST Express bus Routes 566 and 577 from King County Metro to Pierce Transit starting February 5, 2011.

KEY FEATURES

- Transferring Routes 566 and 577 from King County Metro to Pierce County will save a projected \$1.4 million in annual operating expenses. The transfer has been identified as a cost-saving measure in the Proposed 2011 Service Implementation Plan.
- The proposed action does not affect service quality or delivery.
- One-time, start-up expenses include employee recruitment and training as well as coach configuration and transfer and are included in the 2010 Adopted Budget.
- King County Metro operators and service personnel affected by this change will be moved to other King County Metro bus routes as part of the county's bus service expansion plans.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

ST Express is fast, frequent, two-way service connecting the major urban centers of Snohomish, King, and Pierce counties. Operation of ST Express bus service is provided via contracts with Community Transit, King County Metro Transit, and Pierce Transit. Community Transit operates five Sound Transit routes through a private operator, First Transit.

Route 566 operates between Auburn and Overlake and Route 577 operates between Federal Way and Seattle.

FISCAL INFORMATION

Savings in 2011 are estimated at \$1.4 million. The 2011 Proposed ST Express Operations Budget reflects the \$1.4 million savings.

SMALL BUSINESS PARTICIPATION

Not applicable to this action

EQUAL EMPLOYMENT WORKFORCE PROFILE

Not applicable to this action

BACKGROUND

King County Metro has operated Routes 566 and 577 since their inception. Constraints at King County Metro's South Base would require Sound Transit to contribute funding to expand it in order to continue using it for the buses operating on Routes 566 and 577. In addition, Sound Transit would be required to absorb a portion of the on-going expenses for the use of the base. Transferring Routes 566 and 577 to Pierce Transit would remove all Sound Transit operations from South Base. The rest of the Sound Transit fleet operated by King County uses (or will use) East Base, which is not under the same constraints.

The capacity investments required for this service to be operated by Pierce Transit are within the scope of a previously approved investment in the Pierce Transit maintenance facility in Lakewood. The transfer does not require layoffs of existing King County operators as there is sufficient other service growth at King County Metro to absorb the operators and maintenance technicians. There will be minimal change apparent to the customer.

Pierce Transit currently operates ST Express service into and north of Seattle. Route 578, a combined route with Route 577, provides the same service from Federal Way into downtown Seattle, but with alternating times. The only difference is that Route 578 begins in Pierce County and Route 577 is wholly within King County. Pierce Transit also operates Route 586 to the University District and has been successful in coordinating its existing service within King County. Both Pierce Transit and King County Metro currently operate within these corridors.

Motion No. M99-04 allocated Sound Move bus routes to local transit agencies and established criteria for making those decisions, including consideration for the operator currently providing the existing service, operating costs, subarea equity, operational efficiencies, current operator in the corridor, local service interactions, and maintenance capacity. Routes 566 and 577 did not exist when the Board adopted Motion No. M99-04, but were added in 1999 and 2006 respectively. This action is consistent with the criteria for route allocation decisions.

ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE

SSK 11-08-10

PRIOR BOARD/COMMITTEE ACTIONS

Motion No. M99-04 – Allocated the ST Express bus routes to the local transit agencies based on route allocation criteria.

TIME CONSTRAINTS

This action is timed to coincide with the February 2011 service change. Both King County Metro and Pierce Transit have been working with Sound Transit to ensure the smooth transition of the operation and a one month delay may affect this transition.

PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

Not applicable to this action.

LEGAL REVIEW

JW 11/10/10

MOTION NO. M2010-100

A motion of the Board of the Central Puget Sound Regional Transit Authority transferring operation and maintenance of ST Express bus Routes 566 and 577 from King County Metro to Pierce Transit starting February 5, 2011.

BACKGROUND:

King County Metro has operated Routes 566 and 577 since their inception. Constraints at King County Metro's South Base would require Sound Transit to contribute funding to expand it in order to continue using it for the buses operating on Routes 566 and 577. In addition, Sound Transit would be required to absorb a portion of the on-going expenses for the use of the base. Transferring Routes 566 and 577 to Pierce Transit would remove all Sound Transit operations from South Base. The rest of the Sound Transit fleet operated by King County uses (or will use) East Base, which is not under the same constraints. The transfer will save a projected \$1.4 million in annual operating expenses.

The capacity investments required for this service to be operated by Pierce Transit are within the scope of a previously approved investment in the Pierce Transit maintenance facility in Lakewood. The transfer does not require layoffs of existing King County operators as there is sufficient other service growth at King County Metro to absorb the operators and maintenance technicians. There will be minimal change apparent to the customer.

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MOTION:

It is hereby moved by the Board of the Central Puget Sound Regional Transit Authority that the operation and maintenance of ST Express bus Routes 566 and 577 is transferred from King County Metro to Pierce Transit starting February 5, 2011.

APPROVED by the Board of the Central Puget Sound Regional Transit Authority at a regular meeting thereof held on November 18, 2010.



Aaron Reardon
Board Chair

ATTEST:



Marcia Walker
Board Administrator