

MOTION NO. M2010-73

A motion of the Board of the Central Puget Sound Regional Transit Authority modifying the preferred light rail design options for 112th Avenue and the Hospital Station based on the further evaluation called for in Motion No. M2010-44 for the East Link Light Rail Project Final Environmental Impact Statement.

BACKGROUND:

Sound Transit, the Federal Transit Administration, and the Washington State Department of Transportation are preparing environmental documentation in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act and State Environmental Policy Act (NEPA and SEPA) for the East Link Project. The East Link Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) evaluates the impacts of constructing light rail infrastructure and operating light rail service from Seattle to the Overlake Transit Center and studies alignments from the Overlake Transit Center to downtown Redmond. The Draft EIS was issued in December 2008.

In May 2009, following an extended comment period and public hearings, the Sound Transit Board identified a preferred alternative for evaluation in the Final EIS (Motion No. M2009-41). Through Motion No. M2009-41, the Board also directed staff to evaluate proposed design modifications to some alternatives, to conduct a peer review of at-grade light rail operations in downtown Bellevue, and to respond to questions regarding tunnel alternatives in downtown Bellevue.

Consistent with that direction, Sound Transit staff conducted the evaluations, briefed the Board, obtained further information as needed, and continued public outreach. In April 2010, the Board modified the preferred alternative for evaluation in the Final EIS (Motion No. M2010-44). Through Motion No. M2010-44, the Board further directed staff to evaluate design options with the City of Bellevue regarding the 112th Avenue corridor of Segment B and the location of the Hospital Station in Segment C. The motion provided that the results of both evaluations be brought to the Board for consideration.

In June 2010, Sound Transit and the City of Bellevue issued a Concept Design Report on the 112th Avenue Light Rail Options. The report evaluates four design options connected to the preferred C9T: 110th Tunnel alternative and two design options connected to the preferred C11A: 108th At-Grade alternative in downtown Bellevue:

- Option 1: Center Running to Main Street Portal
- Option 2: Westside Running to Main Street Portal
- Option 3: Center Running to 2nd Street Portal
- Option 4: Eastside Running to 2nd Street Portal
- Option 5: Center Running to At-Grade
- Option 6: Westside Running to At-Grade

A draft technical memo, the Evaluation of Hospital Station Options, was prepared in conjunction with the City of Bellevue that evaluates three elevated and one at-grade option for the Hospital Station:

- Option A: North of NE 8th Street
- Option B: Span NE 8th Street
- Option C: South of NE 10th Street
- Option D: At-Grade, North of NE 10th Street

Sound Transit and the City of Bellevue conducted extensive public outreach on the 112th Avenue and Hospital Station design options. The 112th Avenue outreach included going door to door to talk to residents, neighborhood drop-in sessions, meetings with affected property owners, three public workshops, and a public open house. Hospital Station outreach included meetings with affected property owners and a public meeting. The Sound Transit Capital Committee heard extensive public comment on the design options at its July 15, 2010 meeting.

The identification of a preferred alternative for the Final EIS is a statement of the Board's current intent regarding the East Link Project based on the Board's review of the East Link Draft EIS, public comments

from interested citizens, agencies, tribes and organizations, and other information developed to date; it is not a final decision on the East Link Project. The Board will make a final decision on the project to be built after publication of the Final EIS.

MOTION:

It is hereby moved by the Board of the Central Puget Sound Regional Transit Authority that Segments B and C of the preferred light rail alternative for the East Link Project Final EIS are modified as follows:

Segment B: 1-90 to Downtown Bellevue:

The preferred alternative for Segment B is Alternative B2M: 112th Avenue SE, which includes the following:

- An elevated exit of the center roadway and preservation of the HOV direct access for south Bellevue Way to west 1-90 and east 1-90 to north Bellevue Way
- An elevated profile on the east of Bellevue Way to the South Bellevue station
- An elevated station on the existing Park-and-Ride property with structured parking
- An alignment along the east-side of Bellevue Way to 112th Avenue SE
- Continuing north from Bellevue Way along 112th Avenue into downtown Bellevue
- A connection to the C9-T: 110th Tunnel utilizing 112th Avenue:
 - Option 2: Westside Running to Main Street Portal, and
- A connection to the C11-A: 108th At-grade alternative utilizing 112th Avenue:
 - Option 6: Westside Running to At-Grade

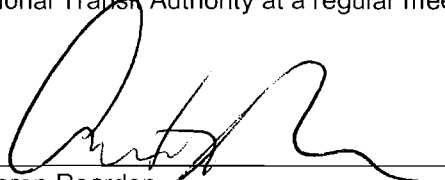
Segment C: Downtown Bellevue to Overlake Hospital

The preferred alternative in Segment C is:

- Alternative C9-T: 110th Tunnel connected to B2M via 112th Avenue Option 2: Westside Running to Main Street Portal, and
- Alternative C11-A: 108th At-Grade connected to B2M via 112th Avenue Option 6: Westside Running to At-Grade
- The preferred Hospital Station location is Option A: North of NE 8th Street

The remainder of the preferred alternative remains unchanged from Motion No. M2010-44.

APPROVED by the Board of the Central Puget Sound Regional Transit Authority at a regular meeting thereof held on July 22, 2010.



Aaron Reardon
Board Chair

ATTEST:



Marcia Walker
Board Administrator