

**MOTION NO. M2010-90**

**Authorizing staff to negotiate a Term Sheet with the City of Tacoma on design and construction of a proposed new station for Tacoma Link**

<b>MEETING:</b>	<b>DATE:</b>	<b>TYPE OF ACTION:</b>	<b>STAFF CONTACT:</b>	<b>PHONE:</b>
Board	09/23/10	Final Action	Ahmad Fazel, DECM Executive Director <b>Jim Edwards, Deputy Executive Director, Design and Engineering</b>	206-398-5389 206-398-5436

**PROPOSED ACTION**

Authorizes Sound Transit staff to negotiate a Term Sheet with the City of Tacoma, for final approval by the Sound Transit Board, for a proposed station on the Tacoma Link route between the Convention Center Station and the Theatre District Station.

**KEY FEATURES**

- The City of Tacoma is interested in construction of a Tacoma Link station between the Convention Center Station and the Theatre District Station. The City refers to this possible new station as the “Commerce Street Station.”
- Sound Transit staff has worked with the City to identify conditions under which any new Tacoma Link station could be developed, including ADA compliance requirements and operational issues.
- Sound Transit staff will work to finalize an agreement with the City of Tacoma based on these underlying assumptions:
  - The City will bear all costs for design, construction, and maintenance of the station including any necessary safety mitigation measures.
  - Sound Transit will maintain the stations and will receive reimbursement for the cost of maintenance from the City.
  - The City will complete all necessary environmental documentation and permitting at its own cost.
  - The City will retain ownership of the station improvements and assume liability for the design of the station.
  - The January 2001 Right of Use Agreement between Sound Transit and the City will be amended to reflect the new station and to increase the minimum operating headways.
- Staff will return to the Board for consideration of any Term Sheet agreement reached with the City.

**PROJECT DESCRIPTION**

Tacoma Link is a 1.6-mile light rail line located in downtown Tacoma. The line was completed in 2003 and serves the downtown area. The line primarily functions to transport commuters between a combined parking garage/transit hub and the downtown core. It provides a fast, reliable, cost-effective transportation alternative connecting downtown Tacoma with the Tacoma Dome district and serves major destinations along the route including the Theater District, the Central Business District, the Convention Center, the University of Washington’s Tacoma Campus, and museums.

The City proposed a new station along Commerce Street between the Convention Center Station and Theater District Station. Sound Transit staff has been working with the City to determine the feasibility of the project.

**FISCAL INFORMATION**

Not applicable to this action.

**SMALL BUSINESS PARTICIPATION**

Not applicable to this action.

**APPRENTICE UTILIZATION COMMITMENT**

Not applicable to this action.

**EQUAL EMPLOYMENT WORKFORCE PROFILE**

Not applicable to this action.

**BACKGROUND**

The City has proposed a new Tacoma Link station north of Convention Center Station at the intersection of Commerce Street and South 11<sup>th</sup> Street. The goal of the project is to expand Tacoma Link access to businesses in the vicinity of station location, increase system ridership, and improve mobility in downtown Tacoma. The City wants a station at South 11<sup>th</sup> Street to retain and attract new employment and economic development near the proposed station.

The nature of the street geometry and driveway access in the area requires that the station platforms vary from other stations on the line. Staff is working closely with the City to define station elements and a configuration that complies with regulatory requirements and safety and security concerns. For example, the platforms will be ADA compliant and designs will need to include provisions for the possible future installation of ticket vending machines, but there may not be sufficient space for other station fixtures.

The City's proposed station would add a sixth station to the current Tacoma Link route. The station would be developed with two offset platforms to allow cars and buses to pass at the station site. The location would allow 40-foot platforms and would accommodate one-car trains. The additional stop on the Tacoma Link system would increase headways by 2 to 4 minutes; as a result the number of daily trips will be reduced.

This motion authorizes Sound Transit staff to work cooperatively with the City of Tacoma on the station design and develop an agreement that satisfies Sound Transit requirements. That agreement will be presented to the Sound Transit Board of Directors for consideration and approval. In order for the project to move forward, the following requirements must be met:

- 1) The Sound Transit Board must approve an operations and maintenance agreement for the station before the City starts construction.
- 2) The City will incorporate elements into their construction contract documents to minimize impacts to Sound Transit operations and receive approval of the final plans and specifications by Sound Transit prior to construction.
- 3) The City must mitigate bus and vehicular safety issues associated with this new station.
- 4) The existing Right of Use Agreement must be amended to reflect the new station and adjust Sound Transit responsibilities affected by the new station, such as maximum headway limitations.
- 5) The City must comply with NEPA and SEPA as applicable.

**ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE**

Jl 9/17/2010

**PRIOR BOARD/COMMITTEE ACTIONS**

None.

**TIME CONSTRAINTS**

A one month delay would not create a significant impact to the project schedule.

**LEGAL REVIEW**

JW 9/17/10

**MOTION NO. M2010-90**

A motion of the Board of the Central Puget Sound Regional Transit Authority authorizing Sound Transit staff to negotiate a Term Sheet with the City of Tacoma, for final approval by the Sound Transit Board, for a proposed station on the Tacoma Link route between the Convention Center Station and the Theatre District Station.

**BACKGROUND:**

The City has proposed a new Tacoma Link station north of Convention Center Station at the intersection of Commerce Street and South 11th Street. The goal of the project is to expand Tacoma Link access to businesses in the vicinity of station location, increase system ridership, and improve mobility in downtown Tacoma. The City wants a station at South 11th Street to retain and attract new employment and economic development near the proposed station. The City refers to this possible new station as the "Commerce Street Station."

The nature of the street geometry and driveway access in the area requires that the station platforms vary from other stations on the line. Staff is working closely with the City to define station elements and a configuration that complies with regulatory requirements and safety and security concerns. For example, the platforms will be ADA compliant and designs will need to include provisions for the possible future installation of ticket vending machines, but there may not be sufficient space for other station fixtures.

The City's proposed station would add a sixth station to the current Tacoma Link route. The station would be developed with two offset platforms to allow cars and buses to pass at the station site. The location would allow 40-foot platforms and would accommodate one-car trains. The additional stop on the Tacoma Link system would increase headways by 2 to 4 minutes, as a result the number of daily trips will be reduced.

Sound Transit staff will work to finalize an agreement with the City of Tacoma based on these underlying assumptions:

- The City will bear all costs for design, construction, and maintenance of the station including any necessary safety mitigation measures.
- Sound Transit will maintain the stations and will receive reimbursement for the cost of maintenance from the City.
- The City will complete all necessary environmental documentation and permitting at its own cost.
- The City will retain ownership of the station improvements and assume liability for the design of the station.
- The January 2001 Right of Use Agreement between Sound Transit and the City will be amended to reflect the new station and to increase the minimum operating headways.

This motion authorizes Sound Transit staff to work cooperatively with the City of Tacoma on the station design and develop an agreement that satisfies Sound Transit requirements. That agreement will be presented to the Sound Transit Board of Directors for consideration and approval. In order for the project to move forward, the following requirements must be met:

- The Sound Transit Board must approve an operations and maintenance agreement for the station before the City starts construction.
- The City will incorporate elements into their construction contract documents to minimize impacts to Sound Transit operations and receive approval of the final plans and specifications by Sound Transit prior to construction.
- The City must mitigate bus and vehicular safety issues associated with this new station.
- The existing Right of Use Agreement must be amended to reflect the new station and adjust Sound Transit responsibilities affected by the new station, such as maximum headway limitations.
- The City must comply with NEPA and SEPA as applicable.

**MOTION:**

It is hereby moved by the Board of the Central Puget Sound Regional Transit Authority that Sound Transit staff is authorized to negotiate a Term Sheet with the City of Tacoma, for final approval by the Sound Transit Board, for a proposed station on the Tacoma Link route between the Convention Center Station and the Theatre District Station.

APPROVED by the Board of the Central Puget Sound Regional Transit Authority at a regular meeting thereof held on September 23, 2010.



Aaron Reardon  
Board Chair

ATTEST:



Marcia Walker  
Board Administrator