

**MOTION NO. M2012-85**  
**2013 State Legislative Program**

<b>MEETING:</b>	<b>DATE:</b>	<b>TYPE OF ACTION:</b>	<b>STAFF CONTACT:</b>	<b>PHONE:</b>
Executive Committee	12/06/12	Recommendation to Board	Ron Klein, Communications and External Relations Director	(206) 398-5393
Board	12/20/12	Final Action	<b>Melanie Smith, State Government Relations Manager</b>	(206) 240-9035

**PROPOSED ACTION**

Adopts the 2013 State Legislative Program and directs staff to evaluate and engage in issues that impact the agency as it continues to implement the regional high capacity transit system.

**KEY FEATURES SUMMARY**

- This action authorizes staff and consultants to advocate for and pursue the following positions during the 2013 state legislative session:
  - Support a statewide transportation investment package that addresses funding needs for public transportation and high capacity transit systems through state funding and authorization of local revenue options
  - Seek legislation to relieve Sound Transit from state public utility taxes collected on fares
  - Support efforts to reauthorize alternative public works contracting and seek legislation to include a Sound Transit representative on the state’s Capital Projects Advisory Review Board
  - Seek legislation to clarify the shoreline permit appeal process to ensure timely delivering of high capacity transit projects
  - Support and engage with partner agencies on efforts that would facilitate the safe, cost-effective and efficient delivery of transit projects and services.
  - Oppose legislation which would negatively impact the ability of Sound Transit to deliver the voter-approved regional high capacity transit program

**BACKGROUND**

The Board annually considers a State Legislative Program. The program has typically included issues and policy guidance to staff and contract lobbyists to assist them in representing the agency’s interests during the legislative session. This action would authorize Sound Transit staff and consultants in Olympia to advocate and/or pursue the following positions during the upcoming state legislative session:

- **Support a statewide transportation investment package that addresses funding needs for public transportation and high capacity transit systems through state funding and authorization of local revenue options**  
 Like most local government entities, Sound Transit is experiencing decreased revenues due to the recession. The Board supports balanced statewide transportation funding, project planning and implementation and hopes to work with the Legislature as it examines future investments and funding options for all transit agencies. The Board is committed to exploring options to

ensure the delivery of the voter-approved ST2 Plan, lessen transit's reliance on sales tax and provide opportunities for future high capacity transit system expansions in the region.

- **Seek legislation to relieve Sound Transit from state public utility taxes collected on fares**

A 2009 Board Operations Task Force recommended the agency seek relief from public utility taxes imposed on fare revenues. Sound Transit is the only public transit operator required to pay public utility taxes imposed on fare revenues. Because efforts to seek administrative relief have not been successful, a legislative change is needed to make Sound Transit consistent with all other transit agencies in the state.

- **Support efforts to reauthorize alternative public works contracting and seek legislation to include a Sound Transit representative on the state's Capital Projects Advisory Review Board**

As a public entity engaged in major capital projects in the state, Sound Transit supports efforts to reauthorize the use of alternative public works contracting which will expire in June 2013. The Capital Projects Advisory Review Board (CPARB) was created by the Legislature in 2005 to review and make recommendations to policymakers on ways to enhance the quality, efficiency and accountability of alternative public works contracting procedures. Sound Transit has worked with CPARB but if a representative were on the board, could provide a valuable perspective in shaping future policies impacting public works contracting.

- **Seek legislation to clarify the shoreline permit appeal process to ensure timely delivering of high capacity transit projects**

Sound Transit works closely with the state and 50 local jurisdictions within its district and supports the Shoreline Management Act. Sound Transit is exploring all opportunities to save taxpayer dollars and deliver the voter-approved ST2 plan as efficiently as possible and believes legislation is needed to reduce the effect of project delays and potential administrative and judicial stays during shoreline permit appeals after local jurisdictions issue shoreline permit decisions. The agency supports changes to the shoreline permit appeals process that would expedite decisions for high capacity transit projects while preserving local control for local jurisdictions and safeguards for the environment and public.

- **Support and engage with partner agencies on efforts that would facilitate the safe, cost-effective and efficient delivery of transit projects and services.**

Sound Transit has historically supported legislative efforts of our partners that facilitate efficient, safe and cost-effective delivery of transit projects and services. As part of on-going coordination efforts in the Central Puget Sound, Sound Transit will work in collaboration with other agencies on legislative efforts aimed at improving transit systems, including proposals impacting transit operations, the ORCA card program and public safety.

- **Oppose legislation which would negatively impact the ability of Sound Transit to deliver the voter-approved regional high capacity transit program**

Having served more than 177 million riders in 13 years of service and with many major capital projects built or under construction, the Sound Transit Board will oppose legislation that would negatively alter the oversight, planning, financing, construction, delivery and operation of Sound Transit projects and services.

## **FISCAL IMPACT**

This action does not have a budget or financial impact to the agency or any of its programs. 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. Advocacy of the State Legislative Program is fully funded through the Communications and External Affairs Department budget.

## **PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT**

Not applicable to this action.

## **TIME CONSTRAINTS**

Sound Transit's interests are better served at the State Legislature if the Board of Directors adopts a State Legislative Program for the 2013 legislative session that begins January 14, 2013. Delaying adoption until after the start of the session could minimize effective advocacy.

## **ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE**

JI 11/20/2012

## **LEGAL REVIEW**

SS 11/30/12

## **MOTION NO. M2012-85**

A motion of the Board of the Central Puget Sound Regional Transit Authority adopting the 2013 State Legislative Program and directing staff to evaluate and engage in issues that impact the agency as it continues to implement the regional high capacity transit system.

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- **Support a statewide transportation investment package that addresses funding needs for public transportation and high capacity transit systems through state funding and authorization of local revenue options**  
Like most local government entities, Sound Transit is experiencing decreased revenues due to the recession. The Board supports balanced statewide transportation funding, project planning and implementation and hopes to work with the Legislature as it examines future investments and funding options for all transit agencies. The Board is committed to exploring options to ensure the delivery of the voter-approved ST2 Plan, lessen transit's reliance on sales tax and provide opportunities for future high capacity transit system expansions in the region.
- **Seek legislation to relieve Sound Transit from state public utility taxes collected on fares**  
A 2009 Board Operations Task Force recommended the agency seek relief from public utility taxes imposed on fare revenues. Sound Transit is the only public transit operator required to pay public utility taxes imposed on fare revenues. Because efforts to seek administrative relief have not been successful, a legislative change is needed to make Sound Transit consistent with all other transit agencies in the state.
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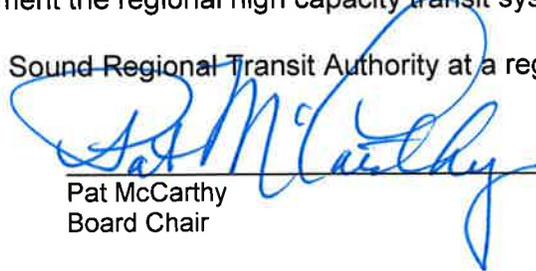
- **Oppose legislation which would negatively impact the ability of Sound Transit to deliver the voter-approved regional high capacity transit program**

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**MOTION:**

It is hereby moved by the Board of the Central Puget Sound Regional Transit Authority that the 2013 State Legislative Program is adopted and staff are directed to evaluate and engage in issues that impact the agency as it continues to implement the regional high capacity transit system.

APPROVED by the Board of the Central Puget Sound Regional Transit Authority at a regular meeting thereof held on December 20, 2012.



Pat McCarthy  
Board Chair

ATTEST:



Marcia Walker  
Board Administrator