

**RESOLUTION NO. R2012-10**  
**ST Express Route 596 – Bonney Lake to Sumner**

<b>MEETING:</b>	<b>DATE:</b>	<b>TYPE OF ACTION:</b>	<b>STAFF CONTACT:</b>	<b>PHONE:</b>
Board	04/26/12	Final Action	Bonnie Todd, Director of Operations <b>Mike Bergman, Service Planning Manager</b>	206-398-5367 206-398-5358

**PROPOSED ACTIONS**

(1) Amends the Adopted 2012 ST Express Transit Operations budget from \$102,308,773 to \$102,561,773 to fund the operation of ST Express Route 596, (2) amends the Adopted 2012 Service Implementation Plan to create ST Express Route 596 to replace Pierce Transit’s Route 496 between the Bonney Lake Park-and-Ride lot and Sumner Sounder Station, and (3) authorizes the chief executive officer to amend the Operations and Maintenance Agreement with Pierce Transit to operate ST Express Route 596.

**KEY FEATURES**

- In June 2012, Pierce Transit will discontinue Route 496 bus service, a dedicated route that connects the Bonney Lake Park-and-Ride lot to the Sounder Sumner Station. Creating ST Express Route 596 would continue service for 145 daily round-trip Sounder passengers.
- Pierce Transit is discontinuing Route 496 due to a boundary revision that will exclude the jurisdictions of Sumner and Bonney Lake from its service district.
- The parking lot at the Sumner Sounder Station is currently at capacity and cannot accommodate additional users.
- Sound Transit has negotiated a contract amendment to the service agreement with Pierce Transit in order for Pierce Transit to operate Route 596 for Sound Transit.
- The budget amendment for \$253,000 would provide the funding of Route 596 service and associated facilities maintenance costs at the Bonney Lake Park-and-Ride lot. Bus service and maintenance costs would be funded by allocating unused Pierce County subarea capacity. The budget amendment would fund this service from June to December 2012. Future year’s costs will be built into the Service Implementation Plan and annual operating budget request.
- Sound Transit will be responsible for maintaining the Bonney Lake Park-and-Ride lot and is currently negotiating an agreement with the City of Bonney Lake to provide lot maintenance. Sound Transit is also negotiating with Pierce Transit for ownership of the lot.

**PROJECT DESCRIPTION**

Current Pierce Transit Route 496 service between the Bonney Lake Park-and-Ride and Sumner Station includes a large proportion of passengers making long-distance regional trips, and direct connections with Sounder or other transit modes. The service only stops at the Bonney Lake Park-and-Ride Lot and the Sounder Sumner Station, and the schedule is designed around connections with Sounder at Sumner Station. The proposed action would amend the 2012 Service Implementation Plan (SIP) to make the Bonney Lake-Sumner bus service part of ST Express system. Future ridership, productivity and other performance metrics would be measured against the *ST Express Bus Service Standards and Performance Guidelines*, adopted by the Board in 2010.

## FISCAL INFORMATION

This action will increase the Adopted 2012 ST Express operating budget by \$253,000. The amount is sufficient to cover Route 596 operating costs and Bonney Lake Park-and-Ride lot maintenance costs. Annualized costs for future years will be included in future annual budgeting processes.

ST Express			
Adopted 2012 Budget Summary			
	Adopted 2012 Budget	This Action	Revised 2012 Budget
Purchased Transportation Services budget	87,979,916	171,000	88,150,916
Facilities Maintenance	1,673,070	82,000	1,755,070
Other Operating budget	12,655,787	-	12,655,787
<b>Total ST Express operating budget</b>	<b>102,308,773</b>	<b>253,000</b>	<b>102,561,773</b>

The addition of the Bonney Lake-Summer route is expected to result in a small increase in Sound Transit fare revenue, estimated to be approximately \$92,000 per year.

## SMALL BUSINESS PARTICIPATION

Not applicable to this action.

## EQUAL EMPLOYMENT WORKFORCE PROFILE

Not applicable to this action.

## BACKGROUND

Sound Transit formerly provided ST Express bus service between the Bonney Lake Park-and-Ride lot and Summer Station as part of a longer route, Route 582, which operated between Bonney Lake and downtown Tacoma. Sound Transit discontinued Route 582 in February 2010 due to low ridership. Pierce Transit initiated Route 496 in September 2007 to provide more dependable connections with Sounder trains. Using Sound Transit's *Service Standards & Performance Measures*, Route 496 currently exceeds the ST Express system average in two out of the three measures used to rate bus service productivity, boardings per revenue service hour and purchased transportation cost per boarding. Route 496 falls below the system average in boardings per one-way trip. Route 496 currently makes 14 weekday one-way trips, seven in the morning and seven in the evening that meet all peak-direction Sounder trains. The proposed action would maintain current service levels.

In June 2011, the Pierce Transit Board initiated a process to revise the district's boundaries. As provided in the agency's enabling legislation, a Public Transportation Improvement Commission (PTIC) was formed to help determine if some communities should leave the district and no longer be served or taxed by Pierce Transit. Five Pierce County cities will withdraw from Pierce Transit, including the cities of Bonney Lake and Summer, which are within the Sound Transit district.

Sound Transit negotiated an amendment to the Operations and Maintenance Agreement with Pierce Transit to operate ST Express Route 596 at a rate of \$112.38 per platform hour for the Sumner-Bonney Lake service. This rate includes direct operating costs and fuel and is the same as the rate for Route 577, which had been moved to Pierce Transit from King County Metro. No overhead charges are being added to the cost of operating this service. This rate is about 13 percent lower than Sound Transit's base rate for other ST Express service operated by Pierce Transit. The \$112.38 rate, adjusted annually for inflation, will be effective until the end of the current agreement in 2014.

The addition of this service will require expanding the Sound Transit fleet by three buses. The initial service will be provided by delaying the retirement of older Sound Transit buses. Changes to the Sound Transit fleet plan as the result of Route 596 will be delayed until the long-term business plan for the route is finalized.

Route 596 fares would be consistent with other ST Express bus routes; \$2.50 for adults, \$1.25 for youths under 18, and 75 cents for senior and disabled riders. This compares with the current Pierce Transit fares of \$2.00 for adults and 75 cents for senior and disabled riders. The higher fare is expected to have little impact on existing Bonney Lake riders since most of them transfer to Sounder trains and use ORCA cards, which provide credit for the fare paid on the first leg of the trip. For example, an adult ORCA e-purse user riding Route 596 from Bonney Lake would be charged the higher \$2.50 fare for the trip to Sumner Station, but the \$2.50 would be credited toward the Sumner-to-Seattle train fare so the total one-way trip cost would be the same as before.

## **ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE**

Jl 4/16/2012

## **PRIOR BOARD/COMMITTEE ACTIONS**

Resolution No. R2011-18: Adopted an annual budget for the period from January 1 through December 31, 2012.

Resolution No. R2011-21: Adopted the 2012 Service Implementation Plan, authorizing the chief executive officer to implement recommended service changes in 2012 and approving the use of preliminary 2013-2017 service changes for planning and forecasting purposes.

Motion No. M2009-107: Executed an agreement with Pierce Transit to provide ST Express bus operations and maintenance services for the period of January 1, 2010, through December 31, 2012, with two one-year options to extend.

## **TIME CONSTRAINTS**

A delay could result in Sound Transit not having the necessary funding authorization in place for June 11, 2012 service change.

## **PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT**

Not applicable to this action.

## **LEGAL REVIEW**

JW 4/20/12

**RESOLUTION NO. R2012-10**

A RESOLUTION of the Board of the Central Puget Sound Regional Transit Authority (1) amending the Adopted 2012 ST Express Transit Operations budget from \$102,308,773 to \$102,561,773 to fund the operation of ST Express Route 596, (2) amending the Adopted 2012 Service Implementation Plan to create ST Express Route 596 to replace Pierce Transit's Route 496 between the Bonney Lake Park-and-Ride lot and Sumner Sounder Station and (3) authorizing the chief executive officer to amend the Operations and Maintenance Agreement with Pierce Transit to operate ST Express Route 596.

WHEREAS, the Central Puget Sound Regional Transit Authority, commonly known as Sound Transit, was formed under RCW Chapters 81.104 and 81.112 for the Pierce, King, and Snohomish Counties region by action of their respective county councils pursuant to RCW 81.112.030; and

WHEREAS, Sound Transit is authorized to plan, construct, and permanently operate a high-capacity system of transportation infrastructure and services to meet regional public transportation needs in the Central Puget Sound region; and

WHEREAS, in general elections held within the Central Puget Sound Regional Transit Authority district on November 5, 1996 and November 4, 2008, voters approved local funding to implement a regional high-capacity transportation system for the Central Puget Sound region; and

WHEREAS, the Sound Transit Board has adopted financial policies to govern the financing and implementation of the regional transit system and to specify budgetary guidelines for providing subarea equity in accomplishing the same; and

WHEREAS, by Resolution No. R2011-18, the Sound Transit Board adopted the 2012 Budget on December 15, 2011 which includes an Adopted 2012 ST Express operating budget of \$102,308,773; and

WHEREAS, this action will increase the Adopted 2012 ST Express operating budget by \$253,000 to cover operating costs to connect the Bonney Lake Park-and-Ride lot with the Sumner Sounder Station and maintenance costs for the Bonney Lake Park-and-Ride lot; and

WHEREAS, by Resolution No. R2011-21 the Board adopted the 2012 Service Implementation Plan authorizing the chief executive officer to implement recommended service changes in 2012; and

WHEREAS, Pierce Transit revised its service boundaries and will no longer provide bus service connecting the Bonney Lake Park-and-Ride with the Sumner Sounder Station after June 8, 2012; and

WHEREAS, existing commuter parking at the Sumner Sounder Station is at capacity and cannot accommodate additional users; and

WHEREAS, creation of Sound Transit Route 596 to connect the Bonney Lake Park-and-Ride lot and the Sounder Sumner Station will maintain a direct connection with Sounder commuter rail; and

WHEREAS, the proposed action would amend the 2012 Service Implementation Plan (SIP) to make the Bonney Lake-Sumner bus service part of ST Express system; and

WHEREAS, the proposed action would authorize a task order with Pierce Transit to operate Route 596 for Sound Transit; and

WHEREAS, a two-thirds affirmative vote of the entire membership of the Sound Transit Board is required to amend the Adopted 2012 Budget.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of the Central Puget Sound Regional Transit Authority that the following actions be approved:

Section 1: The Adopted 2012 ST Express Transit Operations budget is amended from \$102,308,773 to \$102,561,773 to fund the operation of ST Express Route 596 between the Bonney Lake Park-and-Ride lot and Sumner Sounder Station.


Section 2: The Adopted 2012 Service Implementation Plan is amended to create ST Express Route 596 as an addition to the ST Express bus system.

Section 3: The chief executive officer is authorized to amend the Operations and Maintenance Agreement with Pierce Transit to operate ST Express Route 596.

ADOPTED by no less than a two-thirds affirmative vote of the entire membership of the Board of the Central Puget Sound Regional Transit Authority at a regular meeting thereof held on April 26, 2012.

  
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Julia Patterson  
Board Vice Chair

ATTEST:

  
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Marcia Walker  
Board Administrator