

MOTION NO. M2013-57

Extending ST Express Route 592 to Olympia

MEETING:	DATE:	TYPE OF ACTION:	STAFF CONTACT:	PHONE:
Board	07/25/13	Final Action	Bonnie Todd, Executive Director of Operations Mike Bergman, Service Planning Manager	206-398-5367 206-398-5358

PROPOSED ACTION

Authorizes the chief executive officer to execute a two-year agreement with three one-year options to extend with Intercity Transit to extend ST Express Route 592 from DuPont Station to the Olympia Transit Center.

KEY FEATURES SUMMARY

- The proposed action would authorize the chief executive officer to enter into an agreement with Intercity Transit (IT) to extend selected Route 592 trips to and from Olympia. IT would compensate Sound Transit for operations and maintenance costs associated with the extension, including costs of extra service that may be needed if ridership exceeds existing capacity. The agreement would also set the fares to be charged and clarify which agency retains the fare revenue.
- Sound Transit Express Route 592 currently provides peak period commuter service between DuPont Station, Lakewood Station, SR 512 Park-and-Ride and downtown Seattle. Current travel between Seattle and Olympia requires passengers to transfer between IT and Sound Transit service at Lakewood Station. Route 592, as it exists today, covers the majority of the distance between Olympia and Seattle, and extending Route 592 to Olympia is a relatively low-cost option for providing direct service between the two cities.
- IT has been awarded a \$530,000 grant from the State of Washington’s Regional Mobility grant program to provide direct Seattle-Olympia service. The grant, together with a local match of \$132,500, provides sufficient funding to operate the service for at least two years.
- The term of the proposed agreement covers two years from the date of implementation, consistent with the estimated cost of the service over that period and IT’s grant award. The agreement includes three one-year options to extend.
- If the agreement is approved, service would begin September 30, 2013.

BACKGROUND

Currently, transit trips between Seattle and Olympia require passengers to transfer between Sound Transit and IT services at Lakewood Station. Due to the length of the routes, numerous stops, traffic congestion and other schedule constraints, there is often a long wait between connecting buses. This has limited potential Olympia-Seattle ridership, particularly during peak commute periods.

In 2010, 2011 and 2012, IT applied for WSDOT Regional Mobility grant funding for the operation of direct Olympia-Seattle express bus service. Prior to submitting the most recent grant request, IT worked closely with Sound Transit staff on a proposal to extend ST Express Route 592 to Olympia. Route 592 is an existing weekday-only peak period commuter route connecting downtown Seattle with Lakewood and DuPont. The route extension would avoid duplication and increase inter-

agency service along the I-5 corridor. In April 2012, WSDOT approved IT's grant request and IT was granted \$530,000.

Existing Route 592 is not operating at full capacity and can accommodate an increase in ridership. By the end of the first year of service, the Olympia extension is projected to generate about 144 new passenger boardings per day, or 36,000 boardings per year. If overload conditions occur on a regular basis as a result of the extension, Sound Transit and Intercity Transit will work together to determine a solution that does not require Sound Transit to pay for services outside of Sound Transit's taxing district. The agreement would also establish rates of fare for travel to and from Thurston County and specify which agency receives the fare revenue for Thurston County trips.

FISCAL IMPACT

The proposed route extension is not expected to have significant budget impacts. Operations and maintenance costs, administrative costs and vehicle depreciation costs associated with the extension will be funded by Intercity Transit.

SMALL BUSINESS PARTICIPATION

Not applicable to this action.

EQUAL EMPLOYMENT WORKFORCE PROFILE

Not applicable to this action.

PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

Intercity Transit conducted a public involvement process and public hearing on the proposed Route 592 extension during June and July 2013.

TIME CONSTRAINTS

A delay in Board Action past July 25, 2013 would postpone implementation of the Olympia service until February 2014, due to contractual deadlines in the partner agency service agreements.

ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW

JI 5/17/2013

LEGAL REVIEW

JW 7/12/2013

MOTION NO. M2013-57

A motion of the Board of the Central Puget Sound Regional Transit Authority authorizing the chief executive officer to execute a two-year agreement with three one-year options to extend with Intercity Transit to extend ST Express Route 592 from DuPont Station to the Olympia Transit Center.

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MOTION:

It is hereby moved by the Board of the Central Puget Sound Regional Transit Authority that the chief executive officer is authorized to execute a two-year agreement with three one-year options to extend with Intercity Transit to extend ST Express Route 592 from DuPont Station to the Olympia Transit Center.

APPROVED by the Board of the Central Puget Sound Regional Transit Authority at a regular meeting thereof held on July 25, 2013.


Pat McCarthy
Board Chair

ATTEST:



Marcia Walker
Board Administrator