

MOTION NO. M2015-26

Northgate Pedestrian/Bicycle Bridge Project - Sound Transit Funding Extension

MEETING:	DATE:	TYPE OF ACTION:	STAFF CONTACT:
Capital Committee	03/12/2015	Recommend to Board	Ahmad Fazel, DECM Executive Director
Board	03/26/2015	Final Action	Ron Endlich, Northgate Link Deputy Project Director

PROPOSED ACTION

Authorizes the chief executive officer to extend the date of the Northgate Link Extension \$5 million funding commitment for the Interstate-5 pedestrian/bicycle bridge at Northgate to February 1, 2016.

KEY FEATURES SUMMARY

- In June 2012, the Board approved Motion No. M2012-42 authorizing a Northgate access improvement study and outlining funding contributions to Northgate pedestrian and bicycle access improvements, including a contribution of up to \$5 million towards an Interstate-5 pedestrian/bicycle bridge that would connect with the Northgate light rail station.
- Motion No. M2012-42 established a deadline of July 2015 for the City of Seattle to complete a full funding agreement to secure the remaining funds needed to complete the Northgate I-5 pedestrian/bicycle bridge project. This action would extend the deadline to February 1, 2016, allowing the City more time to complete additional design and environment review work and identify additional funding sources to implement the project.
- Sound Transit has now designed the Northgate Station mezzanine level to accommodate a future bridge connection to the elevated station structure. The I-5 pedestrian/bicycle bridge project must advance its design work and construction sequence planning further to facilitate continued coordination with Sound Transit and other stakeholders' facilities or planned projects and to take advantage of potential cost reductions and avoid construction delays. The City of Seattle also must complete environmental review for the bridge project before Sound Transit can transfer funding to the City to construct the project.
- If a full funding agreement is not in place by February 1, 2016, Sound Transit's \$5 million contribution towards the bridge project would be re-programmed for other City priority pedestrian or bicycle facility access improvements in the Northgate area so that they could be completed before the Northgate Station opens in 2021.
- Other commitments contained in Motion No. M2012-42 remain in effect.

BACKGROUND

In June 2012, the Sound Transit Board approved Motion No. M2012-42 which committed \$5 million towards the cost of the I-5 pedestrian/bicycle bridge and \$5 million towards other priority pedestrian and bicycle access improvements in the Northgate area as part of a larger integrated Northgate Station access plan. Sound Transit's funding commitment was contingent on matching funds from the City of Seattle. The motion also stated that the City must complete appropriate environmental review for the proposed pedestrian and bicycle access improvements and must have full funding agreements in place for the bridge project by July 2015. Under the motion, Sound Transit costs associated with designing and constructing the Northgate Station to accommodate a connection for the I-5 pedestrian/bicycle bridge will be credited against this contribution; Sound Transit would reallocate any unspent bridge funds to other priority pedestrian/bicycle projects identified in the Northgate area if a funding agreement for the implementation of the I-5 pedestrian/bicycle bridge wasn't completed by July 2015.

The City's matching funding commitment was contained in Resolution 31389, adopted by the Seattle City Council on June 25, 2012.

In April 2014, the City submitted a United States Department of Transportation TIGER grant application request for \$15 million to complete construction of the I-5 pedestrian/bicycle bridge. Sound Transit supported the City's grant request and Sound Transit funds were identified by the City as part of the local match needed to secure the grant. Nationwide, TIGER grant funding is very competitive with many agencies seeking limited grant funds. Unfortunately the I-5 pedestrian/bicycle project TIGER grant application was not approved by USDOT.

The Seattle Department of Transportation (SDOT) has retained a design consultant team and is proceeding with conceptual design work for the I-5 pedestrian/bicycle bridge. Early design coordination work has begun and environmental documentation work is also proceeding. Further design work and coordination is needed to ensure that the I-5 pedestrian/bicycle bridge is fully compatible with planned projects in the vicinity of the proposed bridge crossing at NE 100th Street, including the Northgate Station, Sound Transit construction staging areas, and replacement parking mitigation sites. Opportunities to coordinate the construction of bridge support structures or other improvements--which may reduce total project costs--can also be further explored.

The design of Sound Transit's Northgate Station and elevated guideway project is currently 90% complete and will be at 100% design completion by December 2015. Sound Transit has submitted master use permit (MUP) and street improvement permit (SIP) applications to the City for Northgate Station site work and they are currently under review. The station construction contractor will begin work in early 2016. Any desired modifications to further accommodate I-5 pedestrian/bicycle bridge project facilities must be identified and coordinated in 2015 to avoid Sound Transit project delays or higher cost change orders after station construction is underway.

In December 2014, the Sound Transit Board received a letter from four local elected officials (including two Sound Transit Boardmembers) and three state legislators requesting that the Sound Transit Board consider extending the funding deadline to allow additional time to secure the remaining funding needed to complete the bridge project. This motion responds to this request and identifies desirable design and construction coordination steps needed to ensure the cost-effective delivery of Sound Transit's Northgate Station project and the City of Seattle's I-5 pedestrian/bicycle bridge project.

This extension would allow the City of Seattle additional time to:

- a) complete I-5 bridge preliminary engineering and environmental review work;
- b) complete additional design coordination and construction planning work with Sound Transit and other affected stakeholders; and
- c) secure a full funding agreement to complete the design and construction of the I-5 bridge at Northgate.

Sound Transit's \$5 million bridge funding contribution would be reallocated to other priority pedestrian or bicycle access improvement projects in the Northgate area if the City of Seattle is unable to secure a full funding agreement or complete design coordination and environmental review work, as needed, by February 1, 2016.

FISCAL INFORMATION

Not applicable to this action.

SMALL BUSINESS/DBE PARTICIPATION AND APPRENTICESHIP UTILIZATION

Not applicable to this action.

PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

The City of Seattle is responsible for public involvement for the I-5 pedestrian/bicycle bridge project.

Many members of the public attending previous Sound Transit open house meetings on Northgate Station design have expressed support for implementing the bridge project and supported a direct connection of the bridge to the mezzanine of the Northgate Station, as currently designed by Sound Transit.

TIME CONSTRAINTS

A one month delay in considering this action would not create a significant impact to the City of Seattle's I-5 pedestrian/bicycle bridge project schedule.

PRIOR BOARD/COMMITTEE ACTIONS

Motion No. M2012-42: Authorized the chief executive officer to complete a Northgate access improvement study to identify potential additional pedestrian and bicycle access improvements to enhance access to the current Northgate Transit Center and future Northgate Station inter-modal transit facility as part of the Northgate Link Extension Project. The Northgate access improvement study would include:

- a) A two-step study process that will include a connectivity analysis followed by an access study to identify and prioritize specific improvements that could be funded by Sound Transit in partnership with the City of Seattle, King County Metro, and other local, state, and federal sources.
- b) Sound Transit's funding contribution for proposed Northgate pedestrian and bicycle access improvements would be capped at \$10 million, which includes credits for current Project commitments as included in the baselined Northgate Link Extension Project budget; and
- c) Before Sound Transit dollars will be authorized towards the improvements, the City of Seattle must match Sound Transit's \$10 million funding contribution, must complete appropriate environmental review for the proposed pedestrian and bicycle access improvements, and must have full funding partnership agreements in place to complete the improvements by 2021.

ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW

JI 3/4/2015

LEGAL REVIEW

JB 3/5/2015

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A motion of the Board of the Central Puget Sound Regional Transit Authority authorizing the chief executive officer to extend the date of the Northgate Link Extension \$5 million funding commitment for the Interstate-5 pedestrian/bicycle bridge at Northgate to February 1, 2016.

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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 extend the date of the Northgate Link Extension \$5 million funding commitment for the Interstate-5 pedestrian/bicycle bridge at Northgate to February 1, 2016.

APPROVED by the Board of the Central Puget Sound Regional Transit Authority at a regular meeting thereof held on March 26, 2015.



Dow Constantine
Board Chair

ATTEST:



Kathryn Flores
Acting Board Administrator