

MOTION NO. M2017-139

Preferred Alternative for the Kent Station Access Improvement Project

MEETING:	DATE:	TYPE OF ACTION:	STAFF CONTACT:
Capital Committee	11/9/2017	Recommend to Board	Don Billen, Acting Executive Director, PEPD
Board	11/16/2017	Final Action	Karen Kitsis, South Corridor Development Director – PEPD Marie Olson, Acting South Corridor Director – Operations Mark Johnson, Director, ST Express and Sounder – DECM

PROPOSED ACTION

(1) Identifies the Preferred Alternative for the Kent Station Access Improvements Project to advance into environmental review, and; (2) approves Gate 2: Identify Alternatives and Gate 3: Identify Preferred Alternative within Sound Transit's Phase Gate process.

KEY FEATURES SUMMARY

- This action identifies the preferred package of parking and access improvements developed for the Kent Station Access Improvements Project and advances the preferred package into environmental review and conceptual engineering.
- The Board will not make a final decision on the project to be built until after completion of the environmental review, which is anticipated in early 2019.
- This action authorizes passage through Gate 2: Identification of Alternatives and Gate 3: Identification of Preferred Alternative within the agency's Phase Gate process.
- The preferred alternative identified by the Board will also include a range of non-motorized improvements such as shared use path improvements; improved pedestrian zones; increased quantity, securing, and lighting of bicycle lockers; additional transit shelters; and intersection improvements to improve bus speed and reliability.
- There are four parking facility sites and a range of non-motorized improvements that can be considered by the Board for identification. The potential sites for structured parking locations are listed below:
 - Site 1: East James Street site:
 - Located parallel to the railroad corridor and East James Street
 - Site 2: Kent Station (shopping center) site:
 - Located within Kent Station shopping center as a surface parking lot
 - Site 3: Railroad Avenue site: **(Staff and City Recommendation)**
 - Located along Railroad Avenue from the railroad corridor to Central Avenue.
 - Identified by the City of Kent as its preferred site, per approval by the Kent City Council on October 17, 2017
 - Site 4: Kaibara Park site:
 - Located between the railroad corridor and the Kent Library parking lot

BACKGROUND

In November 2008, voters approved access improvements to the Kent Sounder Station as part of the ST2 ballot measure to expand mass transit throughout the region. Subsequently, the Sounder Station Access Study was conducted to identify potential access improvements at Sounder stations. However, funding for these improvements was suspended as a result of the reduced

revenue during the recession. The Sound Transit Board restored funding for the Kent Sounder Station access improvements in January 2016, and Phase 1 of the Kent Sounder Station Access Improvements Project commenced in November 2016.

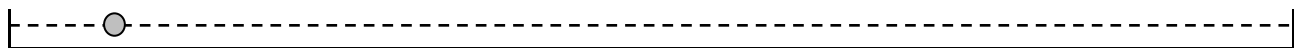
As ridership continues to grow, the existing parking garage fills up early, reducing access opportunities for passengers. On an average weekday in 2016, 1,900 passengers boarded Sounder at the Kent Station and 4,600 passengers boarded other transit lines at the station. Ridership on Sounder commuter rail is forecasted to more than double by 2040. During Phase 1 of the Project, a range of non-motorized projects and potential locations for structured parking of approximately 500 net new stalls were examined. The Project evaluated potential parking, pedestrian, and bicycle access improvements that could be made to improve rider access to the Kent Sounder Station.

The analysis performed during Phase 1 led to the parking and access improvement options that are being advanced to the Board for identification of a preferred alternative. There are four different site alternatives being presented to the Board for consideration. The sites were evaluated based on availability to provide reliable access, potential environmental conditions, consistency with regional and local plans, and comparison of constructability within the available financial resources.

Site 1 would present a challenging environment for passengers crossing from East James Street to reach the Sounder platform, requiring a pedestrian bridge. Site 2 would have higher potential for traffic congestion as it is on the same side of the tracks as the existing Sound Transit parking garage. Site 3 would have lower potential for traffic congestion as it is on the opposite side of the tracks from the existing Sound Transit parking garage. It would also provide an opportunity for an improved bus transfer environment. Site 4 is located in a constrained location and currently in operation as a local park.

The alternative identified by the Board as preferred will advance into the environmental review and conceptual engineering phase of project development. The Board will not make a final decision on the project to be built until after completion of environmental review, which is anticipated to occur in early 2019.

PROJECT STATUS

					
Project Identification	Alternatives Identification	Conceptual Engineering	Preliminary Engineering	Final Design	Construction

Projected Completion Date for Conceptual Engineering Phase: Q1 2019

FISCAL INFORMATION

There is no direct fiscal impact associated with this action. An increase in project allocation is included in the 2018 Proposed TIP to complete the next phase of work. This increase is being requested through 2018 budget development process.

SMALL BUSINESS/DBE PARTICIPATION AND APPRENTICESHIP UTILIZATION

Not applicable for this action.

PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

Extensive public involvement has occurred since project development was initiated. Sound Transit and the project team worked closely with a Technical Advisory Committee (TAC), a Stakeholder Working Group (SWG), and the public to identify potential sites and access improvements, provide feedback on the evaluation and screening of the garage sites and access improvements, and to identify a recommended preferred alternative.

Members of the TAC included City staff and transit agency staff from King County Metro and Pierce Transit. The SWG included representatives from the community, such as major employers, educational institutions, and community groups. The TAC met ten times through this phase and the Stakeholder Committee met four times between January 2017 and October 2017. There were two public open houses held in Kent. Sound Transit provided project briefings to the City of Kent Public Works Committee and Economic and Community Development Committee. Sound Transit staff also briefed the Kent City Council multiple times during alternatives development.

TIME CONSTRAINTS

A one-month delay would impact the advancement of this project into the next phase of project development.

PRIOR BOARD/COMMITTEE ACTIONS

Motion No. M2016-103: Authorized the chief executive officer to execute a contract with CDM Smith Inc. to provide planning consulting services for the Kent and Auburn Station Access Improvements projects in the amount of \$899,653 with a 10% contingency of \$89,965 for a total authorized contract amount not to exceed \$989,618.

Resolution No. R2016-09: (1) Amended the Adopted 2016 Budget to create the Kent Station Access Improvements Project by (a) establishing the Project Lifetime Budget through alternatives analysis in the amount of \$831,000, (b) establishing the 2016 Annual Budget in the amount of \$289,500 and (2) authorized the project to advance through Gate 1 within Sound Transit's Phase Gate Process.

Motion No. M2016-10: (1) Restored funding for the Kent and Auburn Access Projects in the Sound Transit 2 Finance Plan, and (2) directed staff to start work on those access projects and return with a budget amendment and Phase Gate actions when appropriate.

ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW

KH 11/3/17

LEGAL REVIEW

AJP 11/3/17

MOTION NO. M2017-139

A motion of the Board of the Central Puget Sound Regional Transit Authority (1) identifying the Preferred Alternative for the Kent Station Access Improvements Project to advance into environmental review, and (2) authorizing the project to advance through Gate 2: Identify Alternatives and Gate 3: Identify Preferred Alternative within Sound Transit's Phase Gate process.

BACKGROUND:

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MOTION:

It is hereby moved by the Board of the Central Puget Sound Regional Transit Authority that:

- (1) The following is identified as the preferred package of parking and access improvements for the Kent Station Access Improvements Project to advance into environmental review and conceptual engineering:

Site 3: Railroad Avenue site:

- Located along Railroad Avenue from the railroad corridor to Central Avenue.
- Identified by the City of Kent as its preferred site, per approval by the Kent City Council on October 17, 2017

The preferred alternative identified by the Board will also include a range of non-motorized improvements such as shared use path improvements; improved pedestrian zones; increased quantity, securing, and lighting of bicycle lockers; additional transit shelters; intersection improvements to improve bus speed and reliability.

- (2) The project is authorized to advance through Gate 2: Identify Alternatives and Gate 3: Identify Preferred Alternative within Sound Transit's Phase Gate process.

APPROVED by the Board of the Central Puget Sound Regional Transit Authority at a regular meeting thereof held on November 16, 2017.



Dave Somers
Board Chair

ATTEST:



Kathryn Flores
Board Administrator