



## Motion No. M2020-44

### Partnering Agreement with Port of Seattle and Northwest Seaport Alliance related to the West Seattle and Ballard Link Extensions Project

Meeting:	Date:	Type of action:	Staff contact:
System Expansion Committee Board	7/9/2020 7/23/2020	Recommend to Board Final action	Don Billen, PEPD Executive Director <b>Cathal Ridge, Executive Corridor Director</b> <b>Jason Hampton, HCT Project Manager</b>

### Proposed action

Authorizes the chief executive officer to execute a Partnering Agreement with the Port of Seattle and Northwest Seaport Alliance for the West Seattle and Ballard Link Extensions project.

### Key features summary

- The West Seattle and Ballard Link Extensions project is located within the City of Seattle. The Port of Seattle and Northwest Seaport Alliance (Port/NWSA) operate a number of facilities in the project area. The Port/NWSA facilities will be affected by the project and Port/NWSA involvement in project planning is critical to the successful and timely delivery of the project.
- In November 2019 the Port/NWSA delivered a letter to Sound Transit CEO, Peter Rogoff, requesting the development and execution of a partnering agreement. The letter outlined key areas where the Port/NWSA sought to establish commitments for enhanced collaboration between the three agencies.
- The intent of the Partnering Agreement is to establish common understanding of roles and responsibilities necessary for timely delivery of the project.
- The Partnering Agreement is the first step in the Sound Transit Partnering process with the Port/NWSA consistent with the System Expansion Implementation Plan.
- The Port of Seattle Commission and Northwest Seaport Alliance Managing Members unanimously approved the execution of this agreement at a joint meeting on Thursday, July 2.
- Future agreements are expected as the project advances through subsequent development.

### Background

The West Seattle and Ballard Link Extensions project would expand Link light rail transit service from downtown Seattle to West Seattle's Alaska Junction neighborhood, and to Ballard's Market Street area. The project corridor is approximately 11.8 miles long and is part of the ST3 Plan of regional transit system investments, approved for funding by voters in the region in 2016.

In May and October 2019, after completion of the alternatives development phase of the project, the Board identified alternatives to be studied in a Draft Environmental Impact Statement (Draft EIS).

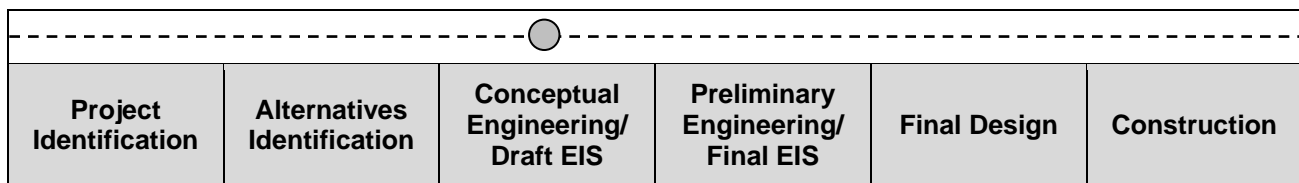
Evaluation of the alternatives identified by the Board is being conducted in cooperation with the Federal Transit Administration. Publication of the Draft EIS is anticipated in early 2021.

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The Partnering Agreement with the Port/NWSA addresses current and future project phases including development of the Draft EIS, Final EIS, final design and construction phases of the West Seattle and Ballard Link Extensions project, including commitment to:

- Establish a designated point of contact and Project Development Team to identify and resolve issues early.
- Work together to complete the project within the ST3 schedule and budget. If there are requests to increase scope, the teams will collaborate to identify scope reductions elsewhere and/or seek local contributions for the project.
- Collaborate early on evaluation of the EIS alternatives identified by the Board of Directors, which meet the intent of the ST3 Plan.
- Collaborate on development of a Community Engagement Guide.
- Establish roles and review cycles for review of an administrative draft of the DEIS and Draft EIS and future project related environmental documents.
- Use and rely on the project’s environmental documents and agreed upon mitigation measures to satisfy any SEPA responsibilities related to the project.
- Outline a structure for sharing and reviewing information including engineering and design documents between the agencies.
- Outline protocols between the Port/NWSA and Sound Transit related to potential property acquisition and access needs.
- Work cooperatively to complete a funding agreement with the PORT/NWSA before December 31, 2020 for reimbursement of certain services and products, while keeping in mind the Sound Transit Board project realignment process that is underway.

## Project status



Projected completion date for Draft EIS publication: Q1 2021

Project scope, schedule and budget summary are located on page 77 of the April 2020 Agency Progress Report.

## Fiscal information

Although there is no direct or immediate fiscal action associated with the proposed action, there may be fiscal impacts as the project progresses. Those impacts will be addressed during future actions as they are presented.

In the Partnering Agreement no party, including Sound Transit, makes any specific financial commitment. Instead, the parties recognize that it may be in Sound Transit's best interest to contract with the Port/NWSA for certain services and products related to project development and to reimburse the Port/NWSA for the costs of these services and products.

### **Disadvantaged and small business participation**

Not applicable to this action.

### **Public involvement**

Sound Transit will actively seek public feedback at all project stages for the West Seattle and Ballard Link Extensions Project with the goal of fostering public trust through transparent communication, meaningful involvement and being responsive to concerns and issues.

The Partnering Agreement includes a commitment to collaborate with the Port/NWSA on the development of a Community Engagement Guide that describes the process for engaging neighborhood and community stakeholders.

### **Time constraints**

A delay in approval of this agreement could affect the ability to coordinate planning and design with the Port/NWSA.

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**Environmental review** – KH 6/26/20

**Legal review** – SS 6/30/2020

## **Motion No. M2020-44**

A motion of the Board of the Central Puget Sound Regional Transit Authority authorizing the chief executive officer to execute a Partnering Agreement with the Port of Seattle and Northwest Seaport Alliance for the West Seattle and Ballard Link Extensions project.

### **Background**

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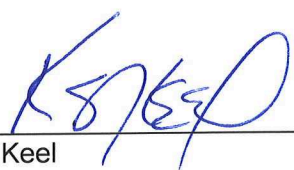
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## Motion

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 Partnering Agreement with the Port of Seattle and Northwest Seaport Alliance for the West Seattle and Ballard Link Extensions project.

APPROVED by the Board of the Central Puget Sound Regional Transit Authority at a regular meeting thereof held on July 23, 2020.



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Kent Keel  
Board Chair

**Attest:**



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Kathryn Flores  
Board Administrator