



Motion No. M2024-67

Funding Agreement with City of Tacoma to design and construct non-motorized access improvements for the South Tacoma Station Access Improvements project

Meeting:	Date:	Type of action:	Staff contact:
System Expansion Committee	10/10/2024	Recommend to Board	Terri Mestas, Deputy CEO, Capital Delivery
Board	10/24/2024	Final action	Tracy Reed, Deputy Executive Director, Capital Delivery Mark Johnson, Project Director, Capital Delivery Zac Eskenazi, HCT Development Manager, Capital Delivery

Proposed action

Authorizes the chief executive officer to execute a funding agreement with the City of Tacoma for the design and construction of non-motorized improvements that are part of the South Tacoma Station Access Improvements Project in an amount not to exceed \$42,310,763.

Key features summary

- In March 2024, the Board of Directors selected a set of non-motorized improvements to be built for the South Tacoma Station Access Improvements project. The City of Tacoma agreed to design, construct, own and maintain non-motorized improvements located in the City rights-of-way.
- This action authorizes execution of a funding agreement with City of Tacoma in an amount not to exceed \$42,310,763 to fund the final design and construction of the Priority 1 bicycle, pedestrian, and transit improvements for the South Tacoma Station Access Improvements project. If funding remains after completion of the Priority 1 improvements, improvements from the Priority 2 list may also be delivered.
- The City will provide Sound Transit with quarterly progress reports that include updates on the schedule and budget for the improvements the City is delivering. All improvements will be complete by April 30, 2030, with the improvements being delivered over time to align with timing of other concurrent City projects.
- The Tacoma City Council authorized execution of this agreement on August 27, 2024.

Background

In November 2008, voters approved funding for access improvements to South Tacoma 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 the South Tacoma access improvements was suspended due to reduced revenue during the recession. The Sound Transit Board of Directors restored funding for the Sounder South

Tacoma Station Access Improvements in January 2020. The South Tacoma Station project began Phase 1 – Alternatives Analysis starting in March 2021. At the conclusion of the Agency realignment process in August 2021, the project was identified as a Tier 1 project to be completed with a target date of 2030 and affordable date of 2032.

Utilizing three key criteria (providing a benefit to underserved communities, addressing a major barrier to access, and proximity to the station), two groups of improvements were identified for further study:

- Priority 1 (higher performing) – these improvements scored high on the 3 key criteria with a focus on providing connections to underserved communities.
- Priority 2 (middle-performing) – these improvements scored high on at least 2 of the 3 key criteria with a focus on providing connections to underserved communities.

The City of Tacoma agreed to perform preliminary engineering, final design and construction for all the improvements located in the City rights-of-way (documented in a Letter of Concurrence signed in January 2024). The City will own and maintain all improvements located in the City rights-of-way. Sound Transit evaluated these improvements and issued a Determination of Nonsignificance and supporting environmental documents under the State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA) on February 14, 2024.

In March 2024, the Sound Transit Board of Directors selected a set of non-motorized improvements to construct. Sound Transit will perform final design and construction of the improvements located in Sound Transit right-of-way. The City will deliver all of the non-motorized improvements in the City rights-of-way, beginning with Priority 1 improvements. These are generally described below; the specific extent and details of improvements will be refined during final design:

- **S 58th St connections** – adds sidewalks, curb ramps, and protected bike lanes from S Washington St. to South Tacoma Way. Improves bicycle and pedestrian crossing at the intersections of South Tacoma Way and S Puget Sound Ave. Provides sidewalks, curb ramps, ADA improvements and bike boulevard treatments from South Tacoma Way to S Lawrence St. Includes wayfinding signage on South Tacoma Way to the South Tacoma Station.
- **S 60th St connections** – adds protected bike lanes on the north side of S 60th St. from S Adams St. to South Tacoma Way and then transitions to a bike boulevard from South Tacoma Way to S Puget Sound Ave. The intersection of S 60th St. and South Tacoma Way will be upgraded to a signalized pedestrian and bike crossing. The intersection of S 60th St. and S Puget Sound Ave will also be upgraded with pedestrian and bicycle safety treatments. Includes wayfinding signage on South Tacoma Way to the South Tacoma Station.
- **S Adams St connections** – adds a protected bikeway from S 66th St. to S 60th St. by installing a 2-way protected bike lane on the west side of S Adams St. that transitions to a shared use path located on the Metro Parks Tacoma SERA Campus. Completes sidewalks and upgrades curb ramps on the east side of S Adams St. from S 66th St. to S 56th St. and improves the intersection of S 60th St. and S Adams St. Upgrades bus stops (serving Pierce Transit Route 53) at the intersection of S 66th St. and S Adams St.
- **S Pine St protected bike lanes** – provides protected bike lanes on both sides of S Pine St. between S Center St. and S 47th St. by removing a travel lane in each direction.
- **S 56th St walking and bicycle connections** – provides a connection from S 56th St. bike lanes (which end just west of S Tyler St.) to SERA Campus and South Tacoma Station.

Additionally, if funding remains after the above improvements are designed and constructed, some or all of the Priority 2 non-motorized improvements may be delivered. These are generally described below; the specific extent and details of improvements will be refined during final design:

- **S 54th St & S Washington St connections** – provides curb ramp and sidewalk improvements at spot locations on S 54th St. and S Washington St. within a half-mile of the station.
- **S Puget Sound Ave connections** – enhances bike lanes on S Puget Sound Ave. between S 54th St. and S 58th St. including bicycle detection at the intersection of S 56th St. and S Puget Sound Ave.
- **S Sprague Ave bicycle connections** – adds bicycle facilities on Sprague Ave. between South Tacoma Way and S 37th St. and bike lanes west on S 37th St. to S Steele St.

Project status

Project Identification	Project Refinements	Conceptual Engineering/ Environmental Review	Preliminary Engineering	Final Design	Construction
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Projected completion for final design of ST-delivered improvements: 2Q 2026

Project scope, schedule and budget summary are located on page 162 of the June 2024 Agency Progress Report.

Fiscal information

This action is funded by the project’s baselined budget adopted in R2024-18 and there are projected sufficient amounts in the budget to fund the remaining work.

The current project budget is included in the existing Financial Plan forecast. The baseline budget for the South Tacoma Station Access Improvements project is \$70,367,000. Within the \$55,880,000 construction phase, \$42,310,763 has been allocated to the City of Tacoma funding agreement. The proposed action would commit \$42,310,763 to this line item and leave an uncommitted line item balance of \$0.

South Tacoma Station Access Improvements

(in thousands)

Project Phase	Baseline Budget	Total Commitment to Date	This Action	Total Commitment Plus Action	Uncommitted / (Shortfall)
Agency Administration	\$6,484	\$1,278	\$0	\$1,278	\$5,206
Preliminary Engineering	3,203	3,172	-	3,172	31
Final Design	2,378	-	-	-	2,378
Third Party	375	-	-	-	375
Right of Way	644	160	-	160	484
Construction	55,880	-	42,311	42,311	13,569
Construction Services	1,403	-	-	-	1,403
Total Current Budget	\$70,367	\$4,610	\$42,311	\$46,920	\$23,447
Phase Detail - Construction					
City of Tacoma Funding Agreement	\$42,311	\$0	\$42,311	\$42,311	\$0
Other Construction	13,569	-	-	-	13,569
Total Phase	\$55,880	\$0	\$42,311	\$42,311	\$13,569

Contract Detail	Board Approvals to Date	Proposed Action	Proposed Total for Board Approval	Current Contract Spend Status
City of Tacoma				
Contract Amount	\$0	\$42,311	\$42,311	\$0
Contingency	-	-	-	-
Total Contract Amount	\$0	\$42,311	\$42,311	\$0
Percent Contingency	0%	0%	0%	0%

Notes:

Amounts are expressed in Year of Expenditure \$000s.

Board Approvals = Committed and PO Contingency Remaining as of 7/31/2024.

For detailed project information, see page 125 of the 2024 Financial Plan & Adopted Budget.

Disadvantaged and small business participation

Not applicable to this action.

Public involvement

Sound Transit conducted two rounds of outreach during Phase 1 – Alternatives Analysis to introduce the project to the public and solicit input on desired access improvements. In April of 2021, staff held an online open house to gather ideas for improving station access. In October of 2021, staff released additional detail on the proposed improvements under study for feedback in an online open house and held a Virtual Question and Answer Session and an information table at the South Tacoma Station. The online open house was translated into two languages; Vietnamese and Spanish. Staff also gave briefings to local public organizations, including the South Tacoma Neighborhood Council, South Tacoma Business District Alliance, and the Asia Pacific Cultural Center. Staff also briefed the City of Tacoma Bicycle Pedestrian Technical Advisory Group and the Tacoma Area Commission on Disabilities. All presentations given during this time included accessibility features.

Staff conducted two rounds of outreach during Phase 2 – Conceptual Engineering and Environmental to continue to share updates with the community and solicit input on the development of improvements as designs advanced. In fall 2022, staff held an online open house with detailed information on four key proposals, staffed an information table at the STAR Center, and held walking and biking tours of the proposed improvement corridors in South Tacoma in partnership with Downtown on the Go. In late 2023, staff solicited input on how to prioritize among the Priority 2 proposals through an online open house. Staff also staffed information tables at the STAR Center and South Tacoma public library. All online open house materials were translated into Spanish and Vietnamese. While the number of survey respondents was small, there was a preference expressed for more non-motorized improvements than added surface parking. This helped inform staff's recommended set of improvements to carry forward.

In future phases of the project, the City of Tacoma will conduct community engagement for the improvements that they are constructing. Sound Transit will provide the City with support and will also be shown as a funding partner on materials published related to these improvements.

Time constraints

A one-month delay would not create a significant impact to the project schedule.

Prior Board/Committee actions

Resolution No. R2024-18: Adopted the South Tacoma Station Access Improvements project baseline schedule and budget by (a) increasing the authorized project allocation by \$61,167,000 from \$9,200,000 to \$70,367,000, (b) increasing the annual project budget by \$1,102,287 from \$1,872,713 to \$2,975,000, and (c) establishing an open for service date of Q4 2030.

Resolution No. R2024-05: Selected the non-motorized and transit improvements to be built to improve access to the South Tacoma Station as part of the South Tacoma Station Access Improvements Project, amending the ST2 Plan.

Motion No. M2022-19: Authorized the chief executive officer to execute a contract modification with David Evans & Associates to exercise a contract option for consultant services for the South Tacoma Access Improvements Project and Lakewood Access Improvements Project in the amount of \$4,759,995 with a 10 percent contingency, for a new total authorized contact amount not to exceed \$9,389,853.

Resolution No. R2020-20: Amended the Adopted 2020 Budget to create the South Tacoma Access Improvements project by (a) establishing an authorized project allocation in the amount of \$1,534,000 and (b) establishing a 2020 annual project budget of \$189,000.

Motion No. M2020-68: Authorized the chief executive officer to execute contract modifications with David Evans & Associates Inc. for Phase 1 Alternatives Analysis for the Lakewood Station Access Improvements project and the South Tacoma Access Improvements project in an amount of \$1,448,853 with a 10 percent contingency of \$144,885 totaling \$1,593,738, for a new total authorized contact amount not to exceed \$3,312,627, contingent upon Board approval of Resolution No. R2020-19 and Resolution No. R2020-20.

Motion No. M2018-120: Authorized the chief executive office to execute a Sounder Planning and Preliminary Engineering consultant contract with David Evans & Associates to provide planning and engineering consultant services for the Sounder South Capacity Expansion program in the amount of \$1,562,626, with a 10% contingency of \$156,263, for a total authorized contact amount not to exceed \$1,718,889 plus applicable taxes, and contingent on Board approval of Resolution No. R2018-36 authorizing the Sounder South Capacity Expansion program and establishing program allocation and a 2018 annual budget.

Environmental review – EG 7/16/24

Legal review – DLM 10/3/2024

Motion No. M2024-67

A motion of the of Board the Central Puget Sound Regional Transit Authority authorizing the chief executive officer to execute a funding agreement with the City of Tacoma for the design and construction of non-motorized improvements that are part of the South Tacoma Station Access Improvements Project in an amount not to exceed \$42,310,763.

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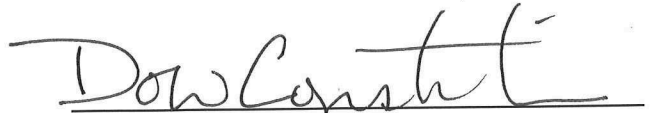
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The Tacoma City Council authorized execution of this agreement on August 27, 2024.

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 funding agreement with the City of Tacoma for the design and construction of non-motorized improvements that are part of the South Tacoma Station Access Improvements Project in an amount not to exceed \$42,310,763.

APPROVED by the Board of the Central Puget Sound Regional Transit Authority at a regular meeting thereof held on October 24, 2024.



Dow Constantine
Board Chair

Attest:



Kathryn Flores
Board Administrator