

PORT OF SEATTLE
MEMORANDUM

COMMISSION AGENDA
STAFF BRIEFING

Item No. 3d
Date of Meeting April 12, 2016

DATE: April 8, 2016
TO: Ted Fick, Chief Executive Officer
FROM: Geraldine Poor, Regional Transportation Manager
SUBJECT: Regional Transit Planning: Sound Transit (Sound Transit 3) and King County Metro (Metro Connects: Long Range Vision)

SYNOPSIS

By all forecasts, our region faces growth in people and jobs: forecasts expect one million more people and 850,000 more jobs by 2040. While the Port recognizes opportunities for economic growth through our Century Agenda, the transit agencies have developed plans to accommodate the transit needs of those residents and employees

On April 12, officials from Sound Transit and King County Metro will present their draft transit plans for Port Commission discussion and input.

BACKGROUND

In the past two years, Sound Transit and King County Metro have worked in parallel toward a shared regional vision. This spring, they are each releasing draft transit plans.

Sound Transit's ST3 Draft Plan provides a 25 year proposal to complete the light rail spine from Tacoma to Everett and east to Redmond and Issaquah; add new light rail service to Ballard and West Seattle; add Bus Rapid Transit on I-405 and SR-522 and improve the Sounder system. After the close of this comment period on April 29, the Board is scheduled to adopt a final plan in June 2016 for a public vote in November.

The Port of Seattle has provided comments throughout the two years of planning for ST3, most recently in January 2016. Primary objectives for ST3 highlighted in that letter are to:

- Enhance service to Sea-Tac for airport passengers and employees, from a web of cities throughout the region
- Strengthen access to Port facilities, both existing and future developments
- Improve regional transportation for personal mobility, while protecting maritime/industrial land uses and freight mobility

King County Metro also is conducting long-term planning and will soon release "Metro Connects." Similarly, this is a 25-year plan integrated with Sound Transit's planning, to significantly expand resources to keep buses moving through growing congestion and

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build upon 600 miles of transit corridors with a variety of transit: RapidRide, frequent, express, and local buses. Metro is requesting comments from the public through May 20.

The Port submitted our key objectives during this process:

- Improve efficiency on key routes that connect economic centers, such as between downtown and Sea-Tac Airport.
- Increase coordination with other transit agencies to ensure a robust and reliable regional transit system.
- Develop sustainable funding sources.
- Consider the harmful impacts of no action to illuminate the economic and safety implications of continuing to underfund our transit system.

ATTACHMENTS TO THIS BRIEFING

- Sound Transit presentation slides.
- King County Metro Transit presentation slides.

PREVIOUS COMMISSION ACTIONS OR BRIEFINGS

- March 5, 2013 – The Port Commission approved Resolution No. 3675 surplusing real property and approving a permanent easement needed for a Sound Transit extension to South 200th Street.
- January 8, 2013 – The Port Commission authorized a Port construction contract to accommodate Sound Transit’s work to extend light rail to South 200th Street, to be reimbursed by Sound Transit.
- May 22, 2012 – The Port Commission authorized a South Link Memorandum of Agreement with Sound Transit.
- February 14, 2012 – The Port Commission authorized Port utility design and construction work in advance of Sound Transit’s extension to South 200th Street, to be reimbursed by Sound Transit.
- May 24, 2011 – The Port Commission authorized the surplus and transfer of a portion of the Eastside Rail Corridor to the Central Puget Sound Regional Transit Authority, including a permanent easement over the Port’s rail-banked portion for future development of high-capacity transportation facilities.
- May 10, 2011 – The Port Commission heard an update on the Port of Seattle/Sound Transit Planning and Preliminary Design Coordination.
- February 23, 2010 – The Port Commission authorized an MOU regarding joint appraisal of the Woodinville Subdivision (Eastside Rail Corridor) between the Port of Seattle and several agency partners including Sound Transit.
- November 30, 2009 – The Port Commission authorized an Operations and Maintenance Agreement with Sound Transit to establish responsibilities at the Link Light Rail Airport Station at the Airport.