

CITY OF SEATTLE

RESOLUTION _____

..title

A RESOLUTION relating to Sound Transit, providing recommendations to the Sound Transit Board as to the content of the proposed Sound Transit 3 (ST3) ballot measure to be submitted to the voters in November 2016.

..body

WHEREAS, a Regional Transit Authority (Sound Transit) was created for the Pierce, King, and Snohomish County region by action of their respective county councils pursuant to RCW 81.112.030; and

WHEREAS, in November 1996, the voters of the three-county Sound Transit district approved *Sound Move*, a ten-year regional transit system plan for high-capacity transit in the Central Puget Sound Region; and

WHEREAS, in November 2008, the voters of the three-county Sound Transit district approved *Sound Transit 2*, a 15-year regional transit system plan for high-capacity transit in the Central Puget Sound Region; and

WHEREAS, on December 18, 2014, through Resolution R2014-31, the Sound Transit Board adopted an updated and modified Regional Transit Long-Range Plan, setting out goals, policies, and strategies to guide the long-term development of the region’s high-capacity transportation system; and

WHEREAS, Sound Transit Resolution R2014-31 also directed Sound Transit staff to develop priorities for the next set of investments to be added to the regional high-capacity transportation system, with a goal to develop the “Sound Transit 3” (ST3) plan to be submitted to the voters; and

1 WHEREAS, Sound Transit has engaged in a multi-year planning process with the public, other
2 agencies, and communities to identify and evaluate potential projects for inclusion in the
3 ST3 proposal, and to evaluate several revenue and investment scenarios; and

4 WHEREAS, Sound Transit intends to place an ST3 proposal before the voters of the region in
5 November 2016; and

6 WHEREAS, a continued regional investment in high-capacity transit, including light rail (Link),
7 commuter rail (Sounder), and express bus service and facilities (ST Express), will
8 provide fast, frequent, reliable connections among the region's major population and
9 employment centers; NOW, THEREFORE,

10 **BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SEATTLE, THE**
11 **MAYOR CONCURRING, THAT:**

12 Section 1. The City Council and Mayor of Seattle commend Sound Transit for its
13 deliberative and inclusive planning process for Sound Transit 3 (ST3), and recognize the need
14 for new transit investments throughout the Sound Transit region. The City Council and Mayor
15 support including the following components in the ST3 package to be submitted to voters.

- 16 a. The ST3 package should construct an infill light rail station at South Graham
17 Street.
- 18 b. The ST3 package should construct an infill light rail station at Northeast 130th
19 Street.
- 20 c. The ST3 package should include a light rail extension from Downtown Seattle to
21 Ballard, including a new tunnel through Downtown Seattle to support regional
22 operation of the light rail system. The ST3 package should allow for future
23 consideration and evaluation of a fully grade-separated alignment to Ballard,

1 including the potential to shift the alignment to the west of 15th Avenue West or a
2 tunnel alignment, if cost savings within the ST3 program or additional funding
3 resources become available.

4 d. The ST3 package should include a light rail extension from Downtown Seattle to
5 the West Seattle Junction, including a grade-separated alignment through West
6 Seattle. The ST3 package should allow for future consideration and evaluation of
7 a tunnel alignment through West Seattle, if cost savings within the ST3 program
8 or additional funding resources become available.

9 e. The ST3 package should include funding for a robust Transit-Oriented
10 Development program to capitalize on ST3 project opportunities.

11 f. The ST3 package should include funding for a robust bicycle and pedestrian
12 access program.

13 g. The ST3 package should include Madison Street Bus Rapid Transit and
14 enhancements to the RapidRide C and D bus lines as early deliverables to address
15 current and anticipated transit demand in these corridors.

16 h. The ST3 package should include funding for planning to extend light rail from the
17 West Seattle Junction to Burien and from Ballard to the University District. The
18 results of these planning studies will enable Sound Transit to update the Long-
19 Range Plan for future investments.

20 Section 2. The City Council and Mayor acknowledge that the Puget Sound region
21 continues to experience rapid growth and that the region's transit needs are great. We also
22 acknowledge that Sound Transit has been granted limited options for funding these needs, which
23 will only become more expensive over time. Given these realities, the Council and Mayor

1 endorse Sound Transit’s proposed mix of revenue options while also committing to support the
2 agency in seeking federal grants and other partnerships to fully leverage the investment of local
3 tax dollars. The City Council and Mayor appreciate Sound Transit’s work to review and revise
4 the Financial Policies in a way that responsibly and equitably finances the full suite of ST3
5 projects while ensuring our regional transit assets will be maintained in a state of good repair.
6 The City Council and Mayor recommend that the ST3 plan continue past practices of allowing
7 for contributions from state and local governments, as well as the private sector, to extend or
8 enhance elements of the System Plan approved by voters.

9 Section 3. The City of Seattle has a strong history of partnering with Sound Transit to
10 help deliver Sound Move and Sound Transit 2 projects. In order to accelerate the delivery of
11 transit improvements in Seattle, the City is committed to actively collaborating with Sound
12 Transit early in the environmental assessment and design phases of ST3 projects to refine and
13 provide certainty around project scope and cost estimates, and to streamline and expedite the
14 permitting process.

15 The City pledges to develop an agreement with Sound Transit for delivering ST3 projects
16 that could include establishing an inter-agency team made up of Sound Transit project managers
17 and City department directors or managers; a Mayor-appointed coordinator to manage the City's
18 efforts across departments while also serving as a single point of contact for Sound Transit
19 project staff; and tools, processes and potential code amendments necessary to streamline
20 permitting and facilitate other regulatory procedures.

21 Such an agreement will necessarily depend on Sound Transit providing a commensurate
22 level of executive commitment, financial planning and staff resources to effectuate our mutual

1 desire for accelerated project development. The City hopes such an agreement will be in place to
2 immediately begin work, if voters approve the ST3 measure in November.

3 Section 4. The City of Seattle applauds the work of Sound Transit in its project labor
4 agreements to ensure we have high apprenticeship utilization rates, strong participation by
5 disadvantaged business enterprises and women- and minority-owned businesses, and high usage
6 of well-trained, local unionized labor. We encourage the Sound Transit Board and staff to look at
7 adoption of priority hire practices to ensure that the workers in the region who live in
8 economically distressed areas are benefiting from large construction projects that will come
9 along with ST3 adoption.

