

SUMMARY and FISCAL NOTE

Department:	Dept. Contact:	CBO Contact:
OWCPST	Sara Maxana	Saroja Reddy

1. BILL SUMMARY

Legislation Title: AN ORDINANCE relating to the Central Puget Sound Regional Transit Authority (Sound Transit); authorizing the Director of the Seattle Department of Transportation to execute an amendment to the "Agreement between the City of Seattle and Sound Transit for Grant of Non-Exclusive Use of a Light Rail Transit Way as related to the Link Light Rail Transit Project" to reflect the approved alignment and light rail transit facilities for the Link Light Rail Transit Project, including addition of the West Seattle Link Extension; and ratifying and confirming certain prior acts.

Summary and Background of the Legislation:

The City grants non-exclusive use of a light rail transit way within City right-of-way through execution of a Transit Way Agreement and subsequent permitting activities. The Transit Way Agreement also provides basic terms for Sound Transit's construction, maintenance, operation, and ownership of the light rail system. The proposed legislation authorizes execution of an amendment to the Transit Way Agreement to authorize the West Seattle Link Extension Light Rail transit system in City right-of-way. The Agreement has been amended four times to include alignments for the Initial Segment; University Link, Northgate Link, East Link; Lynnwood Link Extension; and NE 130th Street Infill Station. This legislation authorizes the SDOT director to execute a new amendment to the Transit Way Agreement to reflect the addition of the West Seattle Link Extension.

2. CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM

Does this legislation create, fund, or amend a CIP Project? ☐ Yes ☒ No

3. SUMMARY OF FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Does this legislation have financial impacts to the City? ☐ Yes ☒ No

3.d. Other Impacts

Does the legislation have other financial impacts to The City of Seattle, including direct or indirect, one-time or ongoing costs, that are not included in Sections 3.a through 3.c? If so, please describe these financial impacts.

No. The legislation authorizes amendment of the Transit Way Agreement. On March 23, 2023, the City provided a letter to Sound Transit indicating it would contribute toward the cost of the project through additional funding or cost savings opportunities. Any City financial commitments related to the light rail system are or will be addressed in separate agreements and legislation.

If the legislation has costs, but they can be absorbed within existing operations, please describe how those costs can be absorbed. The description should clearly describe if the absorbed costs are achievable because the department had excess resources within their existing budget or if by absorbing these costs the department is deprioritizing other work that would have used these resources.

Please describe any financial costs or other impacts of *not* implementing the legislation.

This legislation supports Sound Transit's federal grant process for West Seattle Link Extension.

Please describe how this legislation may affect any City departments other than the originating department.

This legislation relates to use of City right-of-way for the West Seattle Link Extension and does not directly affect other City Departments. Permitting and construction of the project will implicate other departments.

4. OTHER IMPLICATIONS

a. Is a public hearing required for this legislation?

No.

b. Is publication of notice with The Daily Journal of Commerce and/or The Seattle Times required for this legislation?

No.

c. Does this legislation affect a piece of property?

This legislation approves amendment of the Transit Way Agreement that grants non-exclusive use of a light rail transit way.

d. Please describe any perceived implication for the principles of the Race and Social Justice Initiative.

The West Seattle Link Extension will provide increased transit access to racially diverse neighborhoods in the Delridge segment (38% People of Color), Duwamish segment (46% People of Color), and SODO segment (49% People of Color). (Source: WSLE FEIS App G (Environmental Justice) Table 3-1 Study Area Demographics (p 3-1).)

- i. **How does this legislation impact vulnerable or historically disadvantaged communities? How did you arrive at this conclusion? In your response please consider impacts within City government (employees, internal programs) as well as in the broader community.**

Research shows that people of color experience longer commutes than white people; access to the growing Sound Transit Link Light Rail network will allow for reduced commute times and better access to regionwide educational and job opportunities. City government employees and programs will also benefit from the increased access from Sound Transit's West Seattle Link Extension.

- ii. **Please attach any Racial Equity Toolkits or other racial equity analyses in the development and/or assessment of the legislation.**

July 2022. Sound Transit and City of Seattle. West Seattle and Ballard Link Extensions Racial Equity Toolkit Report: Environmental Review Phase. [LINK](#)

- iii. **What is the Language Access Plan for any communications to the public?**

Sound Transit has an Inclusive Public Participation Policy (Resolution 2011-15) that includes provisions for making information available to minority, low-income, and limited English proficient populations.

e. Climate Change Implications

- i. **Emissions: How is this legislation likely to increase or decrease carbon emissions in a material way? Please attach any studies or other materials that were used to inform this response.**

Transit, particularly electrified high capacity transit like light rail, has substantially lower climate impacts compared with single occupancy autos or trying to meet growing transportation demand with new roadway capacity. Light rail is also more conducive to lower climate impacting land uses including denser multi-unit residential, mixed use development and the kind of "missing middle" housing increasingly harder to find in the Seattle area.

- ii. **Resiliency: Will the action(s) proposed by this legislation increase or decrease Seattle's resiliency (or ability to adapt) to climate change in a material way? If so, explain. If it is likely to decrease resiliency in a material way, describe what will or could be done to mitigate the effects.**

N/A

- f. **If this legislation includes a new initiative or a major programmatic expansion: What are the specific long-term and measurable goal(s) of the program? How will this legislation help achieve the program's desired goal(s)? What mechanisms will be used to measure progress towards meeting those goals?**

N/A

- g. Does this legislation create a non-utility CIP project that involves a shared financial commitment with a non-City partner agency or organization?**
No.

5. ATTACHMENTS

Summary Attachments: