



City of Tacoma

City Council Action Memorandum

**TO:** Elizabeth A. Pauli, City Manager  
**FROM:** Corey Newton, P.E., Division Manager, Planning and Development Services  
Josh Diekmann, P.E. PTOE, Interim Public Works Director/City Engineer  
**COPY:** City Council and City Clerk  
**SUBJECT:** Resolution – Amending the Tacoma Link Joint Operating Agreement between Central Puget Sound Regional Transit Authority and the City of Tacoma – June 27, 2023  
**DATE:** May 30, 2023

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**SUMMARY AND PURPOSE:**

A resolution authorizing the execution of an amendment to the Tacoma Link Joint Operating Agreement between the Central Puget Sound Regional Transit Authority, d.b.a. Sound Transit, and the City of Tacoma, to revise and add certain mutually agreed terms and conditions.

**BACKGROUND:**

**This Department’s Recommendation is Based On:** Tacoma Link, now known as T-Line, was Sound Transit’s first rail line. It opened in 2003 and runs 1.6 miles between the Tacoma Dome Station and downtown Tacoma with six stops, serving the University of Washington’s Tacoma campus, the Washington State History Museum, the Museum of Glass, the Greater Tacoma Convention Center, and the Theater District. Construction of the 2.4-mile T-Line extension began in 2018 and is set to open in August/September 2023. It adds six new stations connecting to popular destinations such as Old City Hall, the Stadium District, Wright Park, and major medical facilities before reaching its new Hilltop terminus at St. Joseph Station. Tracks run in existing road lanes, with platforms located in the center roadway.

Sound Transit will maintain the T-Line Passenger Rail System, as well as provide street sweeping along the track line and compliant tree pruning or removal to ensure safe operation of the Passenger Rail System Overhead Catenary System (OCS). Sound Transit will also continue to operate and maintain the Theater District Station. The City will operate and maintain streetlights, beacons, and traffic signals and provide snow and ice removal services on the shared drive surfaces of the right of way with the T-Line and automobiles along the T-Line Route.

The sections of the Tacoma Link Joint Operating Agreement revised by this resolution include:

- City Provided Train Signal Operation and Maintenance
- Traffic Control, Maintenance and Services
- Solid Waste Services
- Street Lighting
- Street Sweeping, Snow Removal and Deicing
- Tree Trimming
- Signal Timing
- Theater District Station Maintenance

The City will provide operations and maintenance for the Sound Transit train signals. Sound Transit agrees to compensate for the operations and maintenance costs annually according to the Fixed Fee Schedule (which will be adjusted upward annually) and has budgeted approximately \$103,206. The City will reimburse Sound Transit, approximately \$31,000 annually, for the maintenance and operations expenses for the Theater District Station.



**COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT/ CUSTOMER RESEARCH:**

This project has had extensive public outreach from both Sound Transit and the City of Tacoma. Sound Transit has provided a dedicated Community Engagement Specialist throughout the entire project and conducts engagement actions everyday as part of their duties. This agreement amends the existing Joint Operating Agreement to allow for this planned project to operate as advertised.

**2025 STRATEGIC PRIORITIES:**

**Equity and Accessibility:**

The resolution amends the original Joint Operating Agreement (executed by Resolution No. 38342), extending T-Line service 2.4 miles, adding six new stations, and connecting to popular destinations such as Old City Hall, the Stadium District, Wright Park, and major medical facilities before reaching its new Hilltop terminus at St. Joseph Station.

**Economy/Workforce:** *Equity Index Score:* High Opportunity

Increase the number of infrastructure projects and improvements that support existing and new business developments.

Increase positive public perception related to the Tacoma economy.

**Livability:** *Equity Index Score:* High Opportunity

Improve access and proximity by residents to diverse income levels and race/ethnicity to community facilities, services, infrastructure, and employment.

Increase the number of Complete Compact Communities/ 20-Minute Neighborhoods throughout the city.

**Explain how your legislation will affect the selected indicator(s).**

This resolution amends the original Joint Operating Agreement for the T-Line Passenger Rail which will now run between Hilltop (18<sup>th</sup>/Martin Luther King Jr. Way) and the Tacoma Dome (Freighthouse Square).

**ALTERNATIVES:**

The City Council could choose not to amend this agreement, however this may create operational issues as part of the new planned system improvements.

**EVALUATION AND FOLLOW UP:**

This agreement allows for the operation of the expanded Tacoma Link system. The agreement contains various provisions regarding joint efforts to resolve issues and provide limited shared maintenance of the system.

**STAFF/SPONSOR RECOMMENDATION:**

The Public Works and Planning and Development Services departments recommend adoption of the amendment to the original Tacoma Link Joint Operating Agreement with Sound Transit.

**FISCAL IMPACT:**

The City will provide operations and maintenance for the Sound Transit train signals. Sound Transit agrees to compensate for the operations and maintenance costs annually according to the Fixed Fee Schedule (which will be adjusted upward annually) and has currently budgeted approximately \$103,206. The City will reimburse Sound



Transit, approximately \$31,000 annually, for the maintenance and operations expenses for the Theater District Station.

Fund Number & Name	COST OBJECT (CC/WBS/ORDER)	Cost Element	Total Amount
1. Fund 1065 PW Street Fund	662424	6545000	\$31,000
2. Fund 1060 PW Transportation Capital and Engineering	PWK-00807-EX	5600000	\$103,206
<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>\$134,206</b>

**What Funding is being used to support the expense?** The PW Street Fund will be used to reimburse Sound Transit, approximately \$31,000 annually, for the maintenance and operations expenses for the Theater District Station. Additionally, Sound Transit will compensate the City, approximately \$103,206 annually, for costs associated with providing operations and maintenance services for the Sound Transit train signals according to the Fixed Fee Schedule (which will be adjusted upward annually), which will be deposited into the PW Transportation Capital and Engineering Fund.

**Are the expenditures and revenues planned and budgeted in this biennium’s current budget?**

NO, PLEASE EXPLAIN BELOW

Funding adjustments will be requested during the 2023-2024 Mid-biennium budget modification process.

**Will the legislation have an ongoing/recurring fiscal impact?**

YES

**Will the legislation change the City’s FTE/personnel counts?**

No

**ATTACHMENTS:**

- Proposed Amendment to the Tacoma Link Joint Operating Agreement
- Original Tacoma Link Joint Operating Agreement