



RESOLUTION NO. 39255

1 A RESOLUTION memorializing the City Council’s recommendation to the Sound
2 Transit Board of Directors that the project to be built for the Tacoma Link
3 Expansion be the alignment and stations examined in the Environmental
4 Evaluation completed by Sound Transit in June 2015 and as approved by
5 the Federal Transit Administration.

6 WHEREAS, in 2008, voters approved ST2, a Sound Transit expansion
7 plan that included partial funding for a partnership to expand the Tacoma Link,
8 and

9 WHEREAS the Tacoma Link Expansion Project is being jointly developed
10 and funded by a partnership between the City and Sound Transit, and, since
11 2010, the parties have been working to identify a plan to expand the Tacoma
12 Link, and

13 WHEREAS the Tacoma Link Expansion project supports the City’s
14 Strategic Policy Priorities through the following goals: (1) improve mobility and
15 transportation access for Tacoma residents and visitors; (2) increase transit
16 ridership in Tacoma; (3) serve underserved neighborhoods and communities;
17 (4) utilize transit to spur economic development and other types of investment;
18 (5) ensure the project is environmentally sensitive and sustainable; and
19 (6) establish a project that is competitive for federal funding, and

20 WHEREAS, pursuant to Resolution No. 39004, adopted September 9, 2014,
21 the Tacoma City Council recommended a single alignment and seven stations to
22 be included in the environmental review process of the Tacoma Link Expansion
23 project, as follows: (1) Martin Luther King Jr Way (“MLK”) and South 19th Street;
24 (2) MLK and South 11th Street; (3) MLK and 6th Avenue; (4) MLK and Division
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1 Avenue; (5) Stadium District; (6) Stadium Way and South 4th Street; and (7) Old
2 City Hall (relocated Theater District Station), and

3 WHEREAS the alignment, first recommended pursuant to Resolution
4 No. 38837, adopted on February 4, 2014, is generally described as north along
5 Commerce Street to the Hilltop District via Stadium Way, North 1st Street,
6 Division Street, and MLK, and

7 WHEREAS Sound Transit and the Federal Transit Administration (“FTA”),
8 as the National Environmental Policy Act (“NEPA”) federal lead agency for this
9 project, in coordination with the City, completed environmental review for the
10 Tacoma Link Expansion project, and
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12 WHEREAS the Environmental Evaluation, approved by the FTA under
13 NEPA, was posted on the Sound Transit website and made available for public
14 review on June 25, 2015, and

15 WHEREAS a Determination of Nonsignificance (“DNS”) was issued in
16 July 2015 under the State Environmental Policy Act (“SEPA”), with the public
17 outreach and comment period on the DNS and environmental documentation
18 coordinated by Sound Transit from July 13-27, 2015, including an open house at
19 Evergreen State College, online comment form, online and print ads, mailings,
20 Listserv notifications, and several community and property owner briefings, and
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22 WHEREAS a summary of the public comments was provided to the City
23 Council at the conclusion of the public comment period, as well as comment
24 letters from the Planning Commission and Transportation Commission, and
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WHEREAS, in late summer 2015, the Sound Transit Board of Directors will take action to select the project to be built for the Tacoma Link Expansion and, after this action, preliminary engineering will be completed and the project will move into final design, and

WHEREAS the Sound Transit Board of Directors has invited the City Council to provide its recommendation for the project to be built, and

WHEREAS it is the recommendation of the City Council that the project to be built for the Tacoma Link Expansion be the alignment and stations examined in the Environmental Evaluation completed by Sound Transit in June 2015 and as approved by the FTA, and

WHEREAS the City's funding commitment for the project, as articulated in the Term Sheet executed between the parties in 2014, is up to \$40 million, less grants received; Now, Therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TACOMA:

Section 1. That it is the recommendation of the City Council to the Sound Transit Board of Directors that the project to be built for the Tacoma Link Expansion be the alignment and stations examined in the Environmental Evaluation completed by Sound Transit in June 2015 and as approved by the Federal Transit Administration.



Section 2. That the City Council further recommends to the Sound Transit

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Board of Directors that center platform configuration is preferred for all stations and should be evaluated and considered for each station.

Adopted _____

Mayor

Attest:

City Clerk

Approved as to form:

Deputy City Attorney