



RESOLUTION NO. 39981

1 BY REQUEST OF MAYOR WOODARDS

2 A RESOLUTION relating to transportation; approving the execution of a negotiated
3 Partnership Agreement with Sound Transit for the purpose of enhancing
4 coordination on the planning, design, and construction of the Tacoma Dome
Link Extension Project.

5 WHEREAS the Sound Transit 3 (“ST3”) high-capacity transit system
6 expansion, approved by voters in November 2016, includes a variety of projects to
7 be implemented over the next 25 years, and
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9 WHEREAS connecting the South Sound area and the second largest city in
10 the region to the Puget Sound light rail spine is critical to our success and the
11 region’s long-term success, and
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13 WHEREAS Tacoma is committed to implementing the principles of the state
14 Growth Management Act and the regional growth and transportation strategies
15 (Vision 2040, Transportation 2030, and their updates), of which a key component
16 is ensuring that we link infrastructure investments and growth in a way that
17 reduces our dependence on single-occupancy vehicles and growing commutes,
18 and
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20 WHEREAS these high-capacity connections are absolutely key to providing
21 the full menu of transportation alternatives necessary to meeting the needs of our
22 growing population in a more sustainable, flexible and resilient way, and
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24 WHEREAS it is critical to recognize that these types of substantial
25 investments are fifty plus year decisions on investments that are made only once
26 every few generations, and



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WHEREAS the decision making process must be strategic, thoughtful, and collaborative, with the entire community and particularly with the Puyallup Tribe, one of our most significant community partners, and

WHEREAS, we must understand that these types of projects have the power to create, shift and catalyze growth in communities and to create value and opportunity for some, but the past also shows us that such projects, if done without sufficient consideration, can divide communities, exacerbate equity issues, and reduce value and opportunity for others, and

WHEREAS, the City is fully committed to getting this done on schedule, if not sooner, and within available resources, but we are even more committed to getting it right, and

WHEREAS Tacoma is supportive of the intent of identifying a preferred alternative early in the process as a mechanism to facilitate a streamlined environmental review and design process, but recognizes that this type of early decision-making is going to necessitate that the process is grounded in equitable community engagement and is designed to get broad consensus and buy-in, at the legislative, administrative, and public levels, and

WHEREAS all parties must recognize that this is part of a regional system that also has local impacts, it is critical to ensure that the process reflects a balance of regional perspectives and local perspectives, and the process must be very clear about what decisions are being made at what points in the process, and what the criteria are that are used to make such decisions, and



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WHEREAS, the decision making process must ensure the validity and strength of the resulting decisions by making them only after significant analysis of the various alternatives and the potential benefits, costs and tradeoffs, and

WHEREAS Tacoma is committed to a project design and station locations that directly promote ridership and efficient service while also catalyzing transit-oriented development and supporting multi-modal access and connectivity, economic opportunity, housing affordability, social equity, healthy communities, environmental sustainability, and the preservation and support of unique cultural and community character, and

WHEREAS the Alternatives Analysis shall be comprehensive enough to examine all viable alternatives to facilitate the best long-term decision, and shall include the specific elements enumerated in this Resolution, and

WHEREAS the Alternatives Analysis shall include an examination of consistency with regional transportation and land use plans and the City's adopted policies and plans, including the One Tacoma Plan, the Transportation Master Plan, and the South Downtown Subarea Plan, and

WHEREAS the Alternatives Analysis shall include early consideration of key environmental, economic and operational impacts and issues, and

WHEREAS the Alternatives Analysis shall include options that effectively connect Tacoma's Eastside and its current and future residents, employment, and destinations

WHEREAS the Alternatives Analysis shall include examination of how this project will integrate, interact and support the other transportation systems and



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modes in the station areas, particularly near the Tacoma Dome Station, which is the most concentrated multi-modal hub in the region with Tacoma LINK, Sounder Commuter Rail, Pierce Transit, Intercity Transit, Greyhound, Amtrak and planned Bus Rapid Transit service, and

WHEREAS the Alternatives Analysis shall include recognition that this is not the endpoint of this system, and project design needs to reflect and facilitate future expansions to the City’s other growth centers, as well as potential improved connections to the Downtown Core and potential connections to other communities in the South Sound, and

WHEREAS implementing the ST3 plan consistent with the scope, budget, and schedule approved by the voters will require coordination and collaboration by Sound Transit and its federal, state, and local partners, and

WHEREAS Sound Transit is beginning the initial planning phases for the STE Project, and the City will play a key role as one of the primary partners for this multi-jurisdictional transit project, and

WHEREAS the ST3 plan includes the Tacoma Dome Link Extension (“TDLE”) Project, which includes two key elements: (1) the Central Link light rail expansion from Federal Way to the Tacoma Dome area; and (2) a Light Rail Operations and Maintenance Facility along the Federal Way-to-Tacoma corridor, and

WHEREAS, in order to facilitate a smooth planning, design, and construction process, Sound Transit is pursuing Partnership Agreements with each



of the jurisdictions along the route, and moving the Alternatives Analysis phase to
1 earlier in the process, and

2 WHEREAS these changes will allow for more and earlier community and
3 inter-jurisdictional engagement, with the intent of ensuring that solid, supported
4 decisions can be made progressively through the process and then sustained as
5 the design and development process continues forward, and
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7 WHEREAS providing early direction on City/local priorities and issues is one
8 way the City can support the shared goal of moving the project forward efficiently
9 and ensuring that it results in a regional transit project that appropriately balances
10 and best meets both regional and local goals, and
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12 WHEREAS this issue was presented to the Planning Commission at its
13 meeting of February 21, 2018; to the Infrastructure, Planning and Sustainability
14 Committee at its meeting of February 28, 2018; and to the City Council at its Study
15 Session of March 20, 2018, with input from those discussions incorporated herein,
16 particularly as it relates to the stated City/local goals and interests, and
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18 WHEREAS this formalized partnership expresses the City's general
19 commitment to the TDLE Project, as well as a commitment to work cooperatively
20 with Sound Transit and the other jurisdictions on planning, design and construction
21 of the project; and will provide early direction and input on high-level City/local
22 goals and interests that should be considered as part of the upcoming planning
23 process, and
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25 WHEREAS, while it would be outlined in detail through a future, separate
26 agreement, the proposed Partnership Agreement incorporates a commitment from



Sound Transit to reimburse the City for staff costs associated with future services that support the TDLE Project; Now Therefore,

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

1. That the Recitals of this Resolution are hereby adopted as the Council's legislative findings regarding the Alternatives Analysis.

2. That the proper officers of the City are hereby authorized to execute the Partnership Agreement with Sound Transit for the purpose of enhancing coordination on the planning, design, and construction of the Tacoma Dome Link Extension Project, said document to be substantially in the form of the agreement on file in the office of the City Clerk.

Adopted _____

Mayor

Attest:

City Clerk

Approved as to form:

Deputy City Attorney