



TO: Elizabeth Pauli, City Manager
FROM: Stephanie Brock, Engineering Manager, Planning & Development Services
Corey Newton, P.E., Acting Director, Planning & Development Services *CEN*
COPY: City Council and City Clerk
SUBJECT: Resolution – Project Administration Agreement with Sound Transit – April 8, 2025
DATE: March 20, 2025

SUMMARY AND PURPOSE:

A resolution approving a negotiated Project Administration Agreement with Sound Transit to establish a Task Order process for Sound Transit to reimburse the City for certain costs not covered by the City's land use, permitting, infrastructure/utility, right-of-way use, or other fee schedules during the planning, design, and construction phase of the Tacoma Dome Link Extension project.

BACKGROUND:

The Tacoma Dome Link Extension (TDLE) project is part of the Sound Transit 3 (ST3) package, which was approved by voters in 2016. In 2018, City Council approved a Partnership Agreement with Sound Transit (per Resolution No. 39981) to facilitate collaboration and incorporate City goals and guidance early in the project planning process to ensure the process integrates local issues.

The TDLE will add nearly 10 miles of mostly elevated track between Federal Way and Tacoma. When TDLE starts, it will offer, fast and frequent travel to destinations across the region including:

- Federal Way Transit Center to Tacoma Dome Station in 20 minutes
- Tacoma Dome Station to Sea-Tac Airport in 35 minutes

The TDLE project is currently in the environmental review phase of planning. As part of this phase, Sound Transit is developing a conceptual design and preparing an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) that evaluates the potential impacts of the project. Sound Transit provided the draft EIS for public comment in fall 2024. Revenue service is anticipated to begin in 2035.





COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT/ CUSTOMER RESEARCH:

The TDLE community engagement is being led by Sound Transit and is critical to informing key decisions made by the Sound Transit Board. Sound Transit has actively engaged local stakeholders, partners, and community members regularly (quarterly to monthly) to provide feedback on the development of project alternatives for further study in the environmental review phase of the project. The Project Administration Agreement enhances the City’s ability to support Sound Transit’s future public outreach processes.

2025 STRATEGIC PRIORITIES:

Equity and Accessibility:

The TDLE project adds two new stations in Tacoma (one at the Tacoma Dome and one on the eastside at Portland Avenue) and provides connections to other regional transit services like the Sounder, Tacoma Link, ST Express, King County Metro, Pierce Transit, Intercity Transit and Amtrak. These new stations and regional connections expand diverse transportation options to the eastside of Tacoma.

Economy/Workforce:

Increase positive public perception related to the Tacoma economy.
Increase the number of infrastructure projects and improvements that support existing and new business developments.

Livability:

Decrease the percentage of individuals who are spending more than 45% of income on housing and transportation costs.
Improve access and proximity by residents to diverse income levels and race/ethnicity to community facilities, services, infrastructure, and employment.

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

The TDLE project, by constructing a station at Portland Avenue and the Tacoma Dome, will provide access to diverse transportation options to residents of the eastside of Tacoma. This will allow residents to rely on fast public transportation. Additionally, fast, reliable transportation networks increase business development along the corridors.

ALTERNATIVES:

The City Council could reject the resolution to approve the Project Administration Agreement with Sound Transit.

Alternative(s)	Positive Impact(s)	Negative Impact(s)
1. Reject Resolution	Staff time savings on review and coordination with Sound Transit	No reimbursement for services provided by the City to Sound Transit outside of permitting and fee schedule, City/Sound Transit partnership compromised

EVALUATION AND FOLLOW UP:

Planning and Development Services staff will manage the review coordination for draft EIS for the City. Sound Transit and the City will develop a preliminary permitting plan prior the start of design (approximately December, 2026).



STAFF/SPONSOR RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends approval of this resolution to ensure Sound Transit and the City continue to work together collaboratively during the planning, design, and construction of the project. The Project Administration Agreement will end at revenue service (2035).

FISCAL IMPACT:

Sound Transit is reimbursing the City for services provided during the planning stage of the TDLE project ending December 31, 2026, for the amount of \$312,000.

Fund Number & Name	COST OBJECT (CC/WBS/ORDER)	Cost Element	Total Amount
1. 4110-PWO PDS Private Work Order Fund	545550	4345300	\$312,000
TOTAL			

What Funding is being used to support the expense?

The expense is supported through a pass-through arrangement where the City performs the work and Sound Transit reimburses us for the costs incurred. This means the City initially covers the expenses, but all costs are ultimately reimbursed by Sound Transit, ensuring there is no net financial impact on the City's budget.

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

NO, PLEASE EXPLAIN BELOW

No, the expenditures and revenues were not included in the current biennium's budget because we were awaiting the finalization of the agreement. The agreement needed to be negotiated and approved before we could allocate funds, ensuring we accurately reflect the financial commitment associated with the partnership.

Are there financial costs or other impacts of not implementing the legislation?

No

Will the legislation have an ongoing/recurring fiscal impact?

No

Will the legislation change the City's FTE/personnel counts?

No

No, the legislation will not change the City's FTE/personnel counts because the work associated with this agreement will be managed within the existing workforce. The reimbursement from Sound Transit covers only the services provided and does not necessitate the hiring of additional staff or changes in current staffing levels.

ATTACHMENTS:

- Project Administration Agreement
- Task Order #1 (Planning Phase)