



RESOLUTION NO. 39004

1 A RESOLUTION relating to Sound Transit's Link Light Rail; recommending that
2 one alternative with the following proposed Tacoma Link Station locations
3 be included in the Environmental Review Process: (1) Martin Luther King
4 Jr Way ("MLK")/ South 19th Street; (2) MLK/South 11th Street;
5 (3) MLK/6th Avenue; (4) Stadium District; (5) Stadium Way/South 4th
6 Street; (6) Old City Hall, as an alternative to the existing Theater District
7 Station; and (7) Division Avenue.

8 WHEREAS, in February 2014, the City Council recommended, and the
9 Sound Transit Board approved, the A1/B1 (Stadium Way/MLK) alignment for
10 Tacoma Link expansion to advance into preliminary design and
11 environmental review, and

12 WHEREAS, in March 2014, Sound Transit submitted a letter to the
13 Federal Transit Administration ("FTA"), declaring its intention to develop the
14 identified alignment into a project eligible for funding from the Small Starts
15 program, which was approved by the FTA in May 2014, and

16 WHEREAS Sound Transit staff has been working closely with City staff
17 and the FTA to prepare an application for funding from the FTA Small Starts
18 program for the Tacoma Link Expansion Project, and

19 WHEREAS the FTA requires environmental review of the project under
20 the National Environmental Policy Act, and, for the Small Starts program, the
21 FTA determines the level of review necessary, and

22 WHEREAS, in August 2014, FTA advised Sound Transit that the Tacoma
23 Link Expansion Project could qualify for a Categorical Exclusion ("CE")
24 environmental process if the project contained only one alternative for the
25 proposed location of stations, and
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1 WHEREAS, based on feedback from the Sound Transit presentation to
2 the Infrastructure, Planning and Sustainability (“IPS”) Committee in May 2014,
3 as well as feedback collected from public outreach initiatives, a single alternative
4 for the location of stations can be identified for the Tacoma Link Expansion
5 Project, and
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7 WHEREAS the presentation to the IPS Committee included information
8 on a project development timeline, proposed station locations, next steps for
9 community outreach and comment, and noted that the FTA would, at some point
10 in the future, determine whether the environmental process would be a
11 Categorical Exclusion or an Environmental Assessment (“EA”), and
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13 WHEREAS the project development timeline showed that with a CE, the
14 earliest an award from Small Starts could be anticipated would be mid-2015;
15 and with an EA, the earliest an award could be anticipated would be late 2015,
16 and
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18 WHEREAS the following six station locations were reviewed with the IPS
19 Committee and circulated in public outreach efforts: (1) Martin Luther King Jr.
20 Way (“MLK”)/ South 19th Street; (2) MLK/South 11th Street; (3) MLK/6th
21 Avenue; (4) Stadium District; (5) Stadium Way/South 4th Street; and (6) Old City
22 Hall (as an alternative to the existing Theater District Station), and
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24 WHEREAS a majority of respondents supported the Stadium Way/South
25 4th Street Station, even among those who expressed preference for a station at
26 Old City Hall, and



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WHEREAS public responses show that there is no strong preference for eliminating any of the six proposed locations from environmental review with a majority requesting consideration of a station at MLK/Division Avenue, and

WHEREAS the IPS Committee had recommended that Sound Transit review the options of a route with, and a route without, the Stadium Way/South 4th Street Station, and

WHEREAS, per the FTA direction received in August, carrying forward two options such as this would not qualify the project for a CE and would prompt an EA, and

WHEREAS it is recommended that one alternative that examines seven new stations be pursued, thus qualifying the Tacoma Link Expansion Project for a CE that projects a timeline in which an award from Small Starts could be anticipated as early as mid-2015; Now, Therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TACOMA

That the City of Tacoma hereby recommends that one alternative, with the following proposed Tacoma Link Station Locations be included in the Environmental Review Process: (1) Martin Luther King Jr Way ("MLK")/South 19th Street; (2) MLK/South 11th Street; (3) MLK/6th Avenue;



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(4) Stadium District; (5) Stadium Way/South 4th Street; (6) Old City Hall (as an alternative to the existing Theater District Station), and (7) Division Avenue.

Adopted _____

Mayor

Attest:

City Clerk

Approved as to form:

City Attorney