



**TO:** Elizabeth Pauli, City Manager  
**FROM:** Brian Boudet, Planning Division Manager, Planning & Development Services  
 Peter Huffman, Director, Planning & Development Services  
**COPY:** City Council and City Clerk  
**SUBJECT:** Resolution – Partnership Agreement with Sound Transit – April 10, 2018  
**DATE:** March 23, 2018

**SUMMARY:**

Approving a negotiated Partnership Agreement with Sound Transit for the purpose of enhancing coordination on the planning, design, and construction of the Tacoma Dome Link Extension (TDLE) project. The formalized partnership expresses the City’s general commitment to this project and how we will work cooperatively with Sound Transit and the other jurisdictions on its planning, design and construction. In addition, the Resolution provides early direction and input on high-level City/local goals and interests that should be considered as part of the upcoming planning process.

**COUNCIL SPONSORS:**

Mayor Woodards

**STRATEGIC POLICY PRIORITY:**

Proactively partnering with Sound Transit on the TDLE project will directly support the following strategic policy priority:

- Encourage and promote an efficient and effective government, which is fiscally sustainable and guided by engaged residents.

**BACKGROUND:**

The TDLE project is part of the Sound Transit 3 (ST3) package, which was approved by voters in 2016. The TDLE project includes two key elements:

- Central Link light rail expansion from Federal Way to the Tacoma Dome area
- An operations and maintenance facility along the corridor

Sound Transit is just beginning the initial planning phases for this project, which is proposed to begin service in 2030. The public kickoff/community engagement for this project will be starting fairly soon, as the intent is to narrow down the list of project alternatives and identify a “preferred alternative” in the next approximately 18 months. The general timeline for the project is shown below:



Moving forward, the City will play a key role as one of the primary partners for this multi-jurisdictional transit project. In order to facilitate a smooth planning, design, and construction process, Sound Transit is approaching this round of projects in a slightly different manner by pursuing Partnership Agreements with each of the jurisdictions along the route at the beginning and moving the Alternatives Analysis phase earlier in the process. The idea is to facilitate more and earlier community and inter-jurisdictional engagement, with the intent of better ensuring that solid, supported decisions can be made progressively through the process and then sustained as the design and development process continues forward. To that end, providing early direction on City/local priorities and issues is one way in which the City can support the shared goal of moving this project forward efficiently and ensuring that it results in a regional transit project that appropriately balances and best meets both regional and local goals.

**ISSUE:**

This issue was discussed at the Council's Study Session on March 20, with the Infrastructure, Planning and Sustainability (IPS) Committee at their meeting on February 28, and with the Planning Commission at their meeting on February 21. Input from those discussions is incorporated into this resolution, particularly as it relates to the stated City/local goals and interests.

**ALTERNATIVES:**

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

**RECOMMENDATION:**

Staff recommends approval of the Partnership Agreement. The TDLE project and Sound Transit's process will move forward; this agreement will facilitate moving forward in a more collaborative fashion that encourages the efficient and effective delivery of this project in a way that appropriately balances regional and local goals. In addition, incorporating early guidance regarding the City's goals and interests will help inform the project from the beginning and better ensure that the planning process integrates these local issues.

**FISCAL IMPACT:**

There is no significant fiscal impact associated with the adoption of this resolution to approve the Partnership Agreement with Sound Transit. However, while it would be outlined in detail through a future, separate agreement, this Partnership Agreement incorporates a commitment from Sound Transit to reimburse the City for staff costs associated with future services that support the TDLE project.