



TO: Elizabeth Pauli, City Manager
FROM: Peter Huffman, Director, Planning & Development Services
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Kurtis Kingsolver, Director, Public Works
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SUBJECT: Sound Transit ST3 Update
DATE: February 28, 2018

PRESENTATION TYPE:
Informational Briefing

SUMMARY:

Staff from Planning & Development Services and Sound Transit will provide an update regarding the Tacoma Dome Link Expansion (TDLE) project, which is the planned extension of Central Link light rail service from Federal Way to the Tacoma Dome area. The corridor planning and community process will be kicking off fairly soon, and the City will play a key role as one of the primary partners for this multi-jurisdictional transit project.

BACKGROUND:

The TDLE project is part of the Sound Transit 3 (ST3) package, which was approved by voters in 2016. TDLE includes two key elements, each of which is further described in the project detail sheets that are attached:

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

As noted in the attached news release, Sound Transit has just completed the process of selecting its consultant to begin the initial planning phase. The public kickoff/community engagement for this project will begin 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:



ISSUE:

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

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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 goals, 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.

ALTERNATIVES:

This is an information briefing only. There are no alternatives presented.

FISCAL IMPACT:

This is an information briefing only. There is no fiscal impact.

RECOMMENDATION:

While there is no specific recommendation at this point, The City Council will be considering a Partnership Agreement on this project in the near future. In addition to expressing the City's general commitment to this project and working cooperatively with Sound Transit and the other jurisdictions on project, this is an opportunity for the City to provide some early direction and thoughts on high-level City/local goals, priorities and issues that should be considered as part of the upcoming planning process.

ATTACHMENTS:

1. ST3 System Expansion Map
2. Sound Transit TDLE Project Overview Sheet
3. Sound Transit News Release, December 22, 2017
4. ST3 Project Detail Sheet – Federal Way Transit Center to Tacoma Dome Light Rail
5. ST3 Project Detail Sheet – Light Rail Operations and Maintenance Facilities