

Planning Commission Light Rail Subcommittee Meeting Notes

April 28, 2016 / City Hall / Room 107 / 1700-1815 Attendees: Commissioner Maul; Commissioner Mork; Commissioner Moss-Thomas; John Evans, Sound Transit PEPD Light Rail Project Manager; and Rachael Markle, City of Shoreline PCD Director

Meeting Purpose: 1) Discuss the proposed changes to the Development Code language contained in Draft Ordinance 741 initiated by Sound Transit; and 2) Determine if additional Development Code amendments are needed to better address potential impacts on adjacent single-family neighborhoods resulting from noise, vibration and visual obstructions associated with the light rail system/facilities.

Following introductions, the Subcommittee proceeded to walk through the proposed amendments in Draft Ordinance 741 as a means of organizing the conversation. The discussion was largely focused on proposed amendments to Draft Ordinance No. 741 SMC 20.40.438, the index criteria for light rail transit system/facility. The Subcommittee members then asked John Evans from Sound Transit several questions. The questions and answers are summarized below:

What is an Access Assessment Report? Does it cover basically the same elements as the Multi Modal Access Improvement Plan, Neighborhood Traffic Plan and Transportation Impact Analysis that were removed from Draft Ordinance No. 741 in consultation with Sound Transit?

The Access Assessment Report will cover those general elements that were removed from the draft text of the ordinance. To the extent necessary, it will summarize work previously completed as part of the project's environmental analyses, and provide updated and more detailed assessment and prioritization of bicycle, pedestrian and bus facility needs near the station. The scope of the Access Assessment Report will be agreed to by the applicant and the City. The City may require third party review of the Access Assessment Report at the applicant's expense.

What is the timeline for completing the Access Assessment Report? The study will be scoped jointly between the City of Shoreline and Sound Transit. Scoping will begin as soon as possible, most likely the first part of May. Sound Transit will pay for the study. The City of Shoreline draft regulations stipulate that the City may require third party review of the report. Sound Transit believes the study will be done by July 2016.

How will the Planning Commission and public get to provide input or be assured that issues they have identified are included and addressed in the various plans and studies required in Draft Ordinance 741, specifically SMC 20.40.438 indexed criteria for Light Rail Transit System/Facilities?

The draft regulations do not include a public process in the requirement for a construction management plan, a parking management plan, and the access assessment report. John Evans suggested that information about each of the plans as they progress could be presented at the three Sound Transit open houses occurring in Shoreline during the design of the light rail system/facilities. The public would be encouraged to provide input on the plans as part of these public forums. This input could be submitted to staff for review with the Council.

How was noise analyzed in the FEIS for the Lynnwood Link Extension project?

Sound Transit must comply with Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) and the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) in the replacement and design of the noise walls along I-5 and the Federal Transportation Administration's (FTA) requirements to ensure noise and vibration levels are mitigated below FTA's strict thresholds. Sound mitigation is usually accomplished with noise walls, noise barriers on elevated tracks, or both. Temporary noise walls will be installed in these locations during construction. The walls will then be replaced permanently.

Sound Transit did noise testing and assessment as part of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) and will continue to test noise levels up and down the alignment during design, construction, and post-construction when the services are fully operational. Additional mitigation measures would be employed, if during the testing the FTA noise level standards are exceeded.

Outcomes

- The Subcommittee requested that staff draft an amendment to SMC 20.40.438 (3) related to the Access Assessment Report that adds the modes of transportation that will be included in the report. Specifically, the Subcommittee wanted to see buses, paratransit, pedestrians, bicycles, and kiss and ride drop off codified for inclusion in the report.
- The Subcommittee requested that staff draft an amendment to SMC 20.40.438 to incorporate the concept of presenting and soliciting public input on the construction management plan, parking management plan, and the access assessment report as part of Sound Transit's three open houses to be held in Shoreline.
- The Subcommittee requested that staff retitle the "parking management plan" listed in proposed SMC 20.40.438 to clearly convey that this plan covers parking issues and mitigation after the station opens and is operational. A request was also made to broaden this plan to include identification of other issues related to the operation of the light rail system/facilities specifically noise impacts and corresponding mitigations.