

THE NORTHWEST SEAPORT ALLIANCE
MEMORANDUM

MANAGING MEMBERS
ACTION ITEM

Item No.	<u>8B</u>
Date of Meeting	<u>April 5, 2022</u>

DATE: March 17, 2022

TO: Managing Members

FROM: **John Wolfe, CEO**
Sponsor: Dana Henderson

Project Managers:

Geraldine Poor, Regional Transportation Senior Manager, Port of Seattle

[Lindsay Wolpa, Senior Manager, Strategic Projects, NWSA](#) or [Dierdre Wilson, NWSA](#)

SUBJECT: Sound Transit Project Administration Agreement with the NWSA related to the West Seattle and Ballard Link Extensions (WSBLE)

A. ACTION REQUESTED

Request NWSA Managing Members' authorization for the CEO to execute a Project Administration Agreement with Sound Transit to provide reimbursement to the NWSA for the costs of certain services and products related to the Project.

B. SYNOPSIS

The West Seattle and Ballard Link Extensions (WSBLE) Project is located within the City of Seattle. The Northwest Seaport Alliance (Alliance) operates facilities in the project area. Port facilities will be affected by the project and NWSA involvement in project planning is critical to the successful and timely delivery of the project.

The Port, Northwest Seaport Alliance (NWSA) and Sound Transit executed a Partnering Agreement for the Project (GA 0089-20) on August 24, 2020 ("Partnering Agreement"), to document and confirm a mutual understanding of general terms and conditions to advance the implementation of the Project.

This Project Administration Agreement addresses the commitment in Section 10.1.2 of the Partnering Agreement for the Parties to work cooperatively to negotiate in good faith a funding agreement to provide reimbursement to the NWSA for the costs of certain services and products related to the WSBLE Project.

Following execution of a Project Administration Agreement, staff will develop a Task Order with the NWSA. The agreement has been reviewed and approved by Sound Transit and NWSA staff and legal counsel.

The Port of Seattle Commission is expected to approve the execution of a parallel Port/Sound Transit agreement on Tuesday, April 12, 2022.

C. BACKGROUND

The West Seattle and Ballard Link Extensions (WSBLE) project would expand Link light rail transit service from downtown Seattle to West Seattle's Alaska Junction neighborhood, and to Ballard's Market Street area. The project corridor is approximately 11.8 miles long and is part of the ST3 Plan of regional transit system investments, approved for funding by voters in the region in 2016.

In May and October 2019, after completion of the alternatives development phase of the project, the Sound Transit Board identified alternatives to be studied in a Draft Environmental Impact Statement (Draft EIS). In January 2022, Sound Transit and the Federal Transit Administration published the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the West Seattle and Ballard Link Extensions project.

In November 2019 the Port/NWSA delivered a letter to Sound Transit CEO, Peter Rogoff, requesting the development and execution of a partnering agreement. The letter outlined key areas where the Port/NWSA sought to establish commitments for enhanced collaboration between the three agencies.

In August 2020, the Port, NWSA and Sound Transit executed a Partnering Agreement for the Project (GA 0089-20).

D. PROJECT DESCRIPTION AND DETAILS

The Project Administration Agreement with the NWSA addresses the commitment in Section 10.1.2 of the Partnering Agreement for the Parties to work cooperatively to negotiate in good faith a funding agreement to provide reimbursement to the Port for the costs of certain services and products related to the Project.

Schedule

Sound Transit is the implementing agency for the WSBLE project.

Regarding the Planning and Environmental Review phase schedule, Sound Transit's Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) is currently available for public review through April 28, 2022. The Sound Transit Board would confirm or modify the Preferred Alternative in 2022, leading to a Final EIS planned for 2023. The final project

to be built would be selected by the Sound Transit Board and be followed by an FTA Record of Decision in 2023.

The current ST schedule. The West Seattle Link Extension design phase is planned for 2023-2027, with construction underway from 2026-2032. The Ballard Link Extension and downtown Seattle light rail tunnel design phase is expected to begin in 2023 and be completed in 2027. Construction and testing is expected to begin in 2026 and be completed in 2037-2-039. The ST Board is currently assessing a program realignment.

E. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The Project Administration Agreement is a good faith funding agreement for ST to reimburse NWSA staff time for certain services during the Planning and Environmental Phase of the ST3 project, resulting in a positive financial impact.

F. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS/REVIEW

Sound Transit as implementing agency is completing environmental review, will secure necessary permits and will ensure compliance with environmental regulations.

G. ATTACHMENTS TO THIS REQUEST

- Computer slide presentation.
- Draft Project Administration Agreement

H. PREVIOUS ACTIONS OR BRIEFINGS

On July 2, 2020, the Managing Members approved a Partnering Agreement among Sound Transit (ST), the Port of Seattle (Port) and The Northwest Seaport Alliance (NWSA) for the West Seattle Ballard Link Extensions (WSBLE), GA 0089-20.

On April 3, 2018, Sound Transit staff briefed the Managing Members on the West Seattle Ballard Link Extensions.

Staff provides regular Sound Transit updates to Managing Members.