

CITY COUNCIL AGENDA ITEM
CITY OF SHORELINE, WASHINGTON

AGENDA TITLE:	Update Council Goal No. 3 – Prepare for Two Light Rail Stations
DEPARTMENT:	Public Works, Finance, City Attorney
PRESENTED BY:	Rachael Markle, Planning and Community Development Director Alicia McIntire, Senior Transportation Planner
ACTION:	<input type="checkbox"/> Ordinance <input type="checkbox"/> Resolution <input type="checkbox"/> Motion <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Discussion

PROBLEM/ISSUE STATEMENT:

Sound Transit is currently in the process of planning and design of the Lynnwood Link light rail extension north of Northgate. The light rail line will travel along I-5 and include two stops in Shoreline. Light rail represents a significant change to transit service in Shoreline. Additionally, the station areas provide an opportunity for redevelopment that is transit oriented and transit supportive, helping the City achieve the goals expressed in Vision 2029. The City has been engaged in Sound Transit's planning and public outreach processes to determine the alignment and station locations that will be examined in the upcoming environmental documentation. Additionally, the City has begun land use planning for the station areas, examining the right mix of uses, densities and multi-modal transportation options that will help create transit oriented communities in Shoreline.

During the last joint meeting with the Planning Commission on July 9, 2012, the Council directed staff to provide regular updates on the progress of light rail planning and station area planning. Tonight's discussion is the first of these periodic updates and check-ins.

At the July 9 meeting, the Planning Commission proposed a draft Future Land Use Map depicting the station areas as a ½ mile radius around the future stations at 185th and 145th (see Attachment A). Recall that initially the Council wanted to do this after Sound Transit's Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) process was complete – most likely in mid 2013. Under the City's original timeline the station area planning process would begin in mid to late 2013 with zoning changes and regulations adopted in late 2014 or early 2015. The Planning Commission is eager to initiate the station area planning and sought Council's direction to move this forward. The Council agreed to move forward in adopting the draft Future Land Use Map as part of the 2012 Comprehensive Plan update by December 2012.

Staff has included a high-level planning schedule (Attachment B) along with a proposed station area planning process (Attachment C). Staff would like to check in with Council to confirm this timeline and schedule.

RESOURCE/FINANCIAL IMPACT:

There is no financial impact associated with tonight's discussion.

RECOMMENDATION

While this report is primarily for discussion purposes, staff seeks confirmation on the proposed timeline and schedule. Staff will return on a quarterly basis to provide updates on additional activity regarding this Council goal.

Approved By: City Manager ***JU*** City Attorney ***IS***

INTRODUCTION

Over the past two years, Sound Transit has narrowed the mode and alignment alternatives for the Lynnwood Link light rail extension to an alignment along the east side of I-5 through Shoreline, with light rail as the identified transit mode. Sound Transit is now in the process of developing the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for this project. The DEIS will evaluate several alignment options and station locations. This will be the first light rail service in Shoreline and will change transit service in the City.

In response to the planned light rail extension, the City has begun station area planning for the two stations in Shoreline. This process began with the adoption of Framework Policies by Council in May 2012. Building off those policies, staff has begun developing a work plan for this effort, with an emphasis on robust public outreach, an evaluation of land uses for the station areas and the need for strong multi-modal connections to the stations.

BACKGROUND

The background description for the Sound Transit planning process through April 2012 can be reviewed at

<http://cosweb.ci.shoreline.wa.us/uploads/attachments/cck/Council/Staffreports/2012/Staffreport040212-7a.pdf>. Additional outreach activities since then are described in the Stakeholder Outreach section of this report.

DISCUSSION

Sound Transit DEIS Process

Sound Transit is currently in the process of developing their National Environmental Policy Act/State Environmental Policy Act (NEPA/SEPA) DEIS for the Lynnwood Link Light Rail extension. This extension is part of the 2008 voter approved Sound Transit 2 funding plan that will connect Shoreline to the light rail line. Currently under construction is the section from downtown Seattle to the University of Washington. The section from the University of Washington to Northgate will follow.

Beginning with a broad array of alignment options and various transit modes, Sound Transit undertook an extensive public outreach process that culminated with the Board decision in December 2011 identifying I-5 as the sole alignment alternative and light rail as the mode choice to be evaluated in the DEIS.

In April 2012, the Sound Transit Board identified the station locations and various combinations that will be evaluated in the DEIS. Alternatives in Shoreline include:

- At-grade/elevated to NE 145th and NE 185th east side stations
- Mostly elevated to NE 145th and NE 185th east side stations
- At-grade/elevated to NE 130th, NE 155th and NE 185th east side stations
- Mostly elevated to NE 130th, NE 155th and NE 185th east side stations
- At-grade/elevated to NE 130th, NE 145th and NE 185th east side stations
- Mostly elevated to NE 130th, NE 145th and NE 185th east side stations

Sound Transit anticipates publishing the DEIS in late spring/early summer 2013, with the Board identifying their preferred alternative later that summer. The FEIS will be published late 2014/mid 2015.

Planning Commission Comprehensive Plan and Light Rail Subcommittee

The Planning Commission has completed two reviews of the Land Use Element of the Comprehensive Plan. Many new goals and policies have been added to this Element in anticipation of the two light rail stations in Shoreline. The Framework Policies for Light Rail Station Area Planning adopted by Council are proposed for inclusion as part of the Land Use element. The Commission has worked on amendments to the Future Land Use Map to identify the areas that will be the subject of the upcoming station area planning projects. The Planning Commission has further discussed recommending that station area planning begin around the 185th future light rail station in 2013.

The draft Future Land Use Map depicts the Station Areas as a ½ mile radius around the future stations at 185th and 145th (Attachment A). An alternative to the “circles” is to direct the Planning Commission to further refine the map, which would mean changing the circles to planning area boundaries defined at the parcel and street level. This would also include identifying criteria for determining the definitive boundaries. The Commission would have an opportunity to discuss this at their next Planning Commission meeting on September 20, 2012. The Council may be interested in directing staff to take this step to signify even greater commitment and progress towards changing existing conditions within station areas from predominantly low densities to transit oriented communities.

As directed by the Council and supported by the Planning Commission following the July 9, 2012 joint meeting, amendments to the Future Land Use Map have been drafted for public review depicting Station Areas as a ½ mile radius around future stations at 185th and 145th. Staff recommends that any refinements of the Station Area boundaries presented include more targeted public outreach and input. Staff also recommends coordinating the City’s Station Area Planning schedule to support Sound Transit’s Lynnwood Link project schedule. Based on the information we have received from Sound Transit, it is likely that by June 2013 the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) will be released. Staff recommends timing the major public outreach and involvement for Shoreline’s Station Area planning to follow the release of Sound Transit’s DEIS. Staff makes this recommendation for two primary reasons: 1) this information will be a great resource and starting point for Shoreline’s Station Area planning; and 2) to avoid creating public confusion regarding the scope of Sound Transit’s DEIS (light rail line and station construction and operation) and the City’s Station Area Planning projects .

Shoreline’s regulatory changes necessary to begin achievement of transit supportive densities could increase the competitiveness of Sound Transit’s Federal Transit Agency (FTA) funding application. This is a highly competitive process and represents a substantial amount of the funding for the Lynnwood Link Light Rail project. Staff learned from Sound Transit (see Attachment B: High level coordination schedule) that completion of Shoreline’s Station Area Planning for the 185th Station by the end of 2014

should still be timely. The latest information from the FTA pushes the deadline for Sound Transit's application to late 2014/early 2015.

Until recently, Sound Transit was expecting to submit the application in Fall 2013. However, the FTA has not yet provided written rules implementing the changes to the New Starts program since the passage of the Senate's Transportation Bill, MAP-21 (Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century). More specifically, the rules regarding how far along in the Federal environmental review process (NEPA) the project needs to be in order to apply for funding have not been confirmed. Therefore, there is some risk if Shoreline waits to adopt regulatory changes within the station areas, that the City will miss the opportunity to support Lynnwood Link's Federal funding application.

The Planning Commission may continue to refine the Future Land Use Map amendments and associated policies that identify the light rail station areas at 185th and I-5 and 145th and I-5. A public hearing on the Draft Update of the Comprehensive Plan is scheduled for October 18, 2012. Staff recommends keeping the ½ mile circles in the Comprehensive Plan Future Land Use map update at this time, with the understanding that these will change to reflect the work of the Planning Commission and public input during the upcoming year.

Chair Moss formed an ongoing subcommittee to work on station area planning for light rail. The subcommittee members are Commissioners Keith Scully, Easton Craft and David Maul. The subcommittee will begin with lessons learned from other station area planning efforts regionally, nationally and internationally; and tracking the many regional forums working on light rail and Transit Oriented Community planning. The subcommittee will report back to the Commission on a regular basis. It is anticipated that following the first subcommittee meeting, the focus of the group will be further articulated. The Commission also requested that an article be included in the next possible issue of Currents regarding station area planning and the Planning Commission's role to serve as a venue for public input throughout the station area planning process.

Station Area Planning Budget Supplemental

Planning and Community Development submitted a 2013 supplemental budget request to fund station area planning around the future 185th and I-5 light rail station. The draft scope of work includes: public outreach, visioning and design modeling; environmental review (EIS-potentially a supplemental EIS building onto the Sound Transit EIS for the 185th Station); and specialized planning (e.g., affordable housing, utilities and capital facilities analysis, market analysis). The estimate for completing the plan and associated regulations is \$250,000. This estimate is based on scope and budget for the City of Redmond's Overlake Neighborhood Plan Update and Overlake Center Charrette. In addition, staff consulted with Sound Transit planning staff and consultants to ascertain if this estimate is realistic. Sound Transit staff agreed that the \$250,000 estimate seemed reasonable for the scope of work discussed.

Station Area Planning Meetings with Sound Transit

Sound Transit and City staff have met twice to discuss the City's station area planning efforts.

- August 3: At this meeting, the City reported on the major update of the Comprehensive Plan, specifically the Land Use Element as it relates to station area planning, and the Station Area Planning schedule and preliminary scope. Sound Transit staff prepared a draft timeline to share with City staff that incorporates both the City's draft schedule (Attachment A) for station area planning and important dates for Sound Transit's EIS, engineering, design, federal funding applications and construction for the Lynnwood Link Light Rail project. At the City's request, Sound Transit also shared conceptual ideas with City staff about potential scope, timing and the public process for station area planning. A schematic representative of this discussion is attached (Attachment C).
- August 24: The focus of this meeting was to plan the joint presentation for the Echo Lake, Meridian Park and North City meeting where both Sound Transit and the City were invited to speak on the Lynnwood Link Project and the City's upcoming station area planning projects (see Stakeholder Outreach below).

Staff will continue to contact other jurisdictions and consultants that have prepared station area plans to develop a more refined scope and cost estimates. Staff will also continue to work with Sound Transit staff to identify their available resources that may offset Shoreline's costs or enhance our process and final products.

Stakeholder Groups

A member of the Echo Lake Neighborhood contacted the Planning and Community Development Department to discuss the formation of a neighborhood committee to gather community input on light rail. Staff will reconnect with this representative as the scope for station area planning around the 185th station is defined.

On May 16, 2012, Brock Howell, the Futurewise King County Program Director, hosted a Sustainability Roundtable with Councilmember Hall. The purpose of this meeting was to gather local representatives with environmental, health and multi modal transportation interests to begin a conversation about Shoreline's future with light rail.

School District Staff and Board Meetings

Sound Transit, City and Shoreline School District staff met on July 17, 2012. The purpose of this meeting was to provide the School District staff with an update on the Lynnwood Link project, discuss the City's adopted Framework Policies for Light Rail Station Area Planning and outline the City's next steps toward this effort.

On July 25, 2012, Sound Transit and City staff made a joint presentation to the Shoreline School District Board. There were three School Board members present at the meeting (Debi Ehrlichman, Dick Nicholson and David Wilson) as well as Superintendent Sue Walker and other School District staff. The City conveyed to School District Board and staff that Council has made substantial policy changes in support of the community's Vision 2029, the region's planned investment in light rail and the Council 2012-2014 Goals. The School District Board and staff are aware that the area around the future light rail station at 185th and I-5 will be the subject of a substantial planning process next year and that School District properties, specifically

the Shoreline Center and North City Elementary, are likely to experience an increase in development potential.

One of the School Board members advised City staff to incorporate a lot of public outreach and engagement into the station area planning process. The same School Board member commented on the vitality of the Shoreline Center complex. The School District Board and staff seemed interested in further discussing the opportunities associated with light rail service and station area planning with Sound Transit and the City. The minutes from this meeting are not yet available.

Council is scheduled to meet with the Shoreline School District Board at their Workshop Dinner on October 22.

Puget Sound Regional Council (PSRC) Growing Transit Communities (GTC)

Growing Transit Communities (GTC) is a Puget Sound Regional Council (PSRC) sponsored program designed to help make the most of the region's investment in light rail by locating housing, jobs, and services close enough to transit that it is a viable option for many people. A major product of GTC will be Corridor Action Strategies. These will detail the actions and tools needed to make it easier to develop jobs and housing in areas associated with transit investments. The program examines the issues associated with three corridors in Puget Sound; Shoreline is located in the North Corridor and participates as part of the North Corridor Task Force. This task force will address key issues for the North Corridor including:

- Transitioning to pedestrian-scale land uses and design along auto-oriented corridors
- Overcoming historical market barriers to development
- Achieving station area growth in ways that preserve community assets for current and future residents
- Linking a range of housing choices with centers that offer living wage employment opportunities

Staff have been attending and participating on the PSRC GTC North Corridor Task Force. The following is a summary of North Corridor Task Force meetings for this past quarter (July and September, no meeting was held in August):

- July 11, 2012
 - Equity Grantee Report: PSRC staff reported out regarding lessons learned and recommendations from two agencies that have received Equity Grants from PSRC to engage underrepresented communities in aspects of Transit Oriented Community development;
 - Corridor Action Strategies – Recommended Actions Final Report: PSRC staff presented a draft Table of Contents for the report, discussed how to use the data to develop recommendations, and identified additional data and information needs;

- Transit Community Implementation Typology*: PSRC staff reviewed the draft Typology Framework Proposal memo from the Center for Transit Oriented Development; the Task Force developed recommended changes to incorporate prior to advancing the memo to the GTC Oversight Committee.

* A typology is a tool to organize information about equitable transit community study areas in order to make regional and local policy recommendations. There are five equitable transit community areas being studied in Shoreline. They are NE 145th Street at I-5, NE 155th Street at I-5, N 155th Street at Aurora Ave N, NE 185th Street at I-5 and Shoreline Park and Ride at Aurora Ave N and 192nd Street.

- July 20, 2012 GTC Oversight Committee Meeting
 - Shoreline City Council testified and submitted a written letter to the Oversight Committee objecting to basing station area typologies largely on existing conditions instead of a local jurisdiction's adopted land use policies for the station area.
- September 12, 2012 was the last meeting of this quarter. The meeting will occur after the publication of this report. Staff will provide an update at the Council meeting.

Councilmember Winstead had represented the City on the GTC Oversight Committee through mid-August. Given Councilmember Winstead's work commitments, she has requested that another Councilmember serve as the City's representative. Deputy Mayor Eggen has volunteered to serve as the Council's representative.

Staff will continue to participate in the GTCs North Corridor Task Force, advocating for PSRC staff to broaden station area typologies to consider local policies and plans for these areas in addition to existing conditions. In September, staff plans to meet with PSRC staff including Ben Bakkenta, Growth Management Planning Program Manager, and Sara Nikolic, GTC North Corridor Project Manager. The purpose of this meeting will be to further discuss the City's concerns regarding station area typology and determine what steps the City can take to ensure that the GTC typology exercise culminates with a designation that supports the City's vision and commitments to initiate development of transit oriented communities around Shoreline's light rail stations.

Grants

The City of Shoreline applied for, but did not receive, a Department of Commerce Growth Management Act (GMA) Competitive Planning grant for \$50,000. These funds would have been used to support the City's upcoming station area planning project. One of the required criteria for the grant was the delivery of a completed station area plan within the grant period (March 2013). Staff will reapply for this grant next year.

Senior Services intends to apply for an Equity Grant from Impact Capital in fall 2012. Cultural competency is part of the Senior Services mission. The purpose of the grant

will be to perform outreach to people who often do not participate in Transit Oriented Community planning. If successful, Senior Services will use this grant to communicate with and educate residents of King County Housing Authority buildings that are close to the proposed Lynnwood Link route about the coming of light rail service and the associated opportunities. Senior Services will include groups such as the Senior Center in Shoreline, the Center for Human Services and Hopelink as part of this outreach. Senior Services would also use the grant to identify and develop local leaders from diverse cultures to participate in station area planning efforts. Staff met with Joanne Donahue, Vice President of Senior Services on August 24, 2012 to discuss the grant and ways to coordinate efforts.

STAKEHOLDER OUTREACH

Sound Transit has managed the public outreach for the Lynnwood Link Light Rail Extension project and the City has been responsible for outreach associated with the City's station area planning efforts. Since the last update to Council in April, the following outreach activities have occurred:

Sound Transit attended a variety of summertime events in Shoreline to provide the public with information about the Lynnwood Link project. These events included:

- Presentation to the Shoreline Fire Department Board of Commissioners – June 20
- Information table at Shoreline Swinging Summer's Eve – July 18
- Information table at Celebrate Shoreline – August 18
- Information table at Shoreline Farmer's Market – August 25

City staff attended the following events to share information with residents and hear their comments about the Lynnwood Link project and the City's upcoming station area planning projects:

- Presentation to the Shoreline Fire Department Board of Commissioners – June 20
- Echo Lake Neighborhood Picnic – July 17
- Shoreline Swinging Summer's Eve – July 18
- Night Out Against Crime Block Parties in Echo Lake, North City and Ridgecrest – August 7
- Ridgecrest Ice Cream Social – August 16
- Celebrate Shoreline – August 18
- Shoreline Farmer's Market – June 16, June 30, July 14, August 4, August 25

On September 18, 2012, Sound Transit and City staff will make a joint presentation to a special meeting of the Echo Lake, North City and Meridian Park Neighborhood Associations at City Hall. The presentation will include an overview of the Lynnwood Link project scope and timeline by Sound Transit staff. Shoreline staff will provide an update on the City's policy decisions to date regarding light rail and station area

planning, a description of “station area planning,” and the next steps and timelines for the City’s station area planning project affiliated with the future light rail station at 185th and I-5.

City staff have also been invited to the November 5, 2012 Ballinger Neighborhood Association meeting to provide an update on the Lynnwood Link project and the City’s plans for station area planning around the future light rail station at 185th and I-5.

City staff will be present at the September 15 and October 6 Farmers’ Markets.

COUNCIL GOAL(S) ADDRESSED

This project addresses Council Goal 3: Prepare for Two Light Rail Stations.

RESOURCE/FINANCIAL IMPACT

There is no financial impact associated with tonight’s discussion.

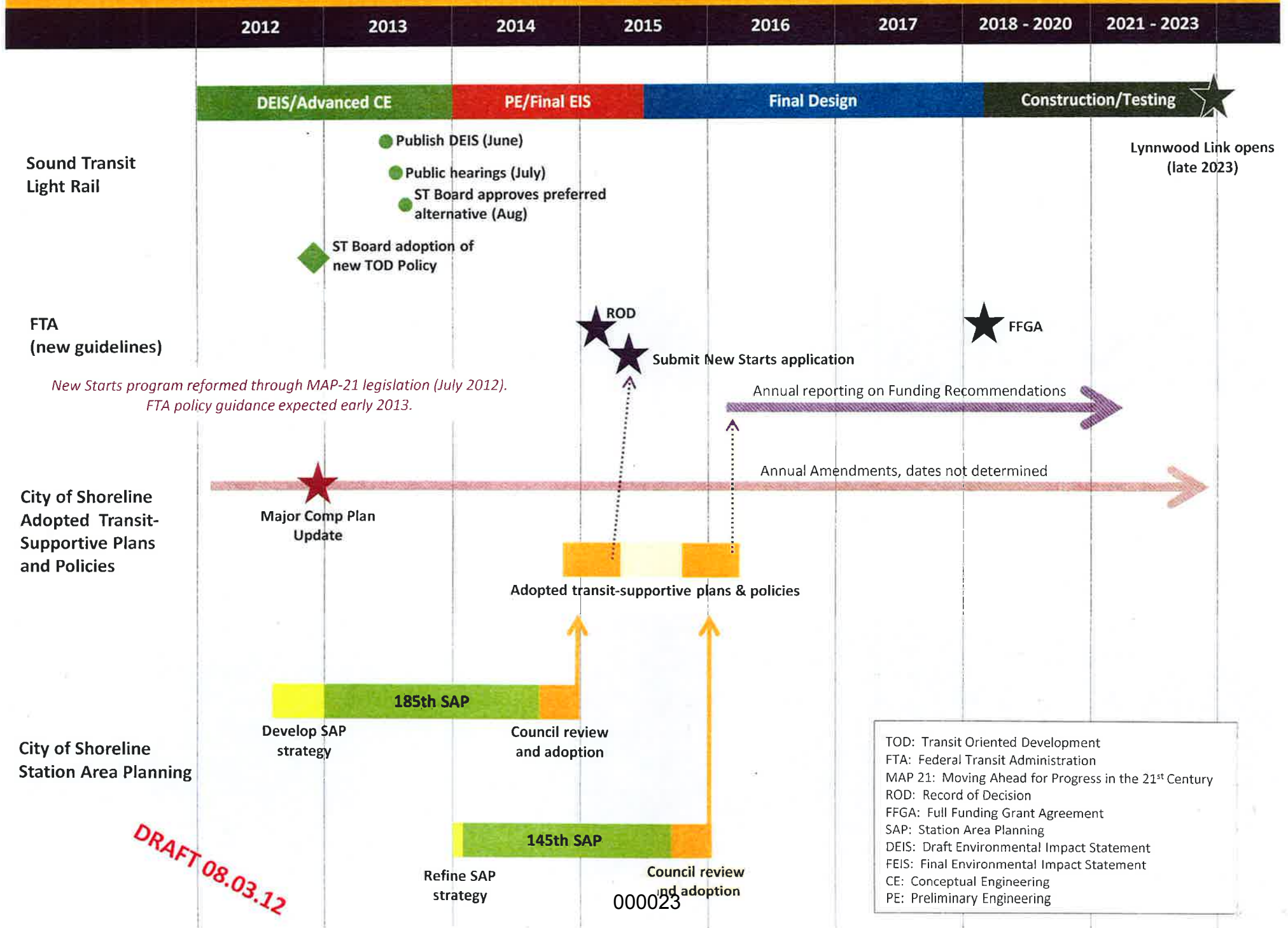
RECOMMENDATION

While this report is primarily for discussion purposes, staff seeks confirmation on the proposed timeline and schedule. Staff will return on a quarterly basis to provide updates on additional activity regarding this Council goal.

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment A: Draft Future Land Use Map
Attachment B: High level coordination schedule
Attachment C: Potential station area planning process

DRAFT High-Level Coordination Schedule



Potential Station Area Planning Process

