

CITY COUNCIL AGENDA ITEM
CITY OF SHORELINE, WASHINGTON

AGENDA TITLE:	Update on Sound Transit SR-522/145 th Street Stride Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) Project		
DEPARTMENT:	Public Works		
PRESENTED BY:	Nytasha Walters, Transportation Services Manager		
ACTION:	<input type="checkbox"/> Ordinance	<input type="checkbox"/> Resolution	<input type="checkbox"/> Motion
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Discussion	<input type="checkbox"/> Public Hearing	

PROBLEM/ISSUE STATEMENT:

As part of the voter-approved Sound Transit 3 (ST3) Plan, the State Route 522/NE 145th Street Bus Rapid Transit (SR-522/NE 145th BRT) project (one of three Sound Transit Stride BRT lines) will provide fast, frequent, and reliable bus-based transit service from north Lake Washington communities to the new Shoreline South/148th Street light rail station, with buses running as often as every 10 minutes.

The Sound Transit BRT project is currently in the design and property acquisition phase. Tonight, Sound Transit staff Rick Capka, Deputy Program Executive for Bus Rapid Transit, and Faith Roland, Director of Real Property, will present an update on the project, including community engagement, property acquisition, design elements, and Sound Transit Board decisions.

RESOURCE/FINANCIAL IMPACT:

There is no direct financial impact regarding tonight's Council discussion.

RECOMMENDATION

There is no action required with this agenda item as this report and presentation update is for discussion purposes only. Staff recommends that the City Council ask questions of Sound Transit staff and provide any feedback.

Approved By: City Manager **BE** City Attorney **MK**

INTRODUCTION

Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) for the NE 145th Street Corridor east of the Shoreline South/148th Street Light Rail Station was part of the Sound Transit 3 Plan approved by voters in 2016. This BRT project went through years of refinement and conceptual engineering (2018-2019) with the Sound Transit Board selecting the project to be built in 2020. The project is moving toward final design and undertaking property acquisition. Construction elements could begin for this segment in 2025 with a construction completion date and start of service in 2026/2027.

Tonight, Sound Transit staff Rick Capka, Deputy Program Executive for Bus Rapid Transit, and Faith Roland, Director of Real Property, will be presenting on the current status of the SR-522/NE 145th BRT project and answering any questions regarding community engagement, property acquisition, design elements, and Sound Transit Board decisions. There are no specific elements requiring Council decisions tonight.

BACKGROUND

On November 27, 2017, Sound Transit and Shoreline staff provided Council with an update on the ST3 Plan, with initial focus on the [SR-522/NE 145th BRT project](#). In 2018, the City Council helped develop and submit a joint letter (from the cities of Bothell, Kenmore, Lake Forest Park, Woodinville, and Shoreline) to the Sound Transit Board regarding the alternatives being considered. On February 25, 2019, Sound Transit staff briefed Council on the project's proposed refined project and next steps to implement the project. The [2019 staff report](#) included the 2018 joint letter.

The last formal update to Council by Sound Transit on the BRT project was at the [May 18, 2020, Council meeting](#). At this meeting, Sound Transit staff presented information on new refinements as a result of reaching 10% design and continued coordination and adaptation with the City's adjacent 145th Street Interchange Project. It had been determined that in order to balance overall project costs, the pair of BRT stations at 145th Street and 25th Avenue NE would be eliminated. Also at that time, Sound Transit indicated a relocation of a pair of stations at 30th Avenue NE which provides a signalized crossing for pedestrians. Staff recognized the need to work closely with Sound Transit and the Interagency Work Group for reviewing further design details.

City staff brought a formal partnering agreement with Sound Transit for the SR-522/NE 145th Street BRT Project before the Council at the [November 9, 2020 Council meeting](#). The BRT Project Partnering Agreement between Sound Transit and the City lays out basic project management, decision making, responsibilities, and process elements for project delivery.

DISCUSSION

The [SR-522/NE 145th Stride BRT](#) will operate along a nine-mile corridor between the Shoreline South/148th Link light rail station and the SR-522/I-405 Transit Hub, with separate connecting service options to Woodinville. Buses will use Business Access and Transit (BAT) lanes on SR522, and BAT lanes, general purpose lanes, and bus queue bypass lanes on SR 523/NE 145th Street. There will be 12 stations across five

cities, including two stations in Shoreline on NE 145th Street at 15th Avenue NE and at 30th Avenue NE.

On Aug. 5, 2021, the Sound Transit Board adopted a realigned capital plan to address the global pandemic, rising construction and real estate costs, and supply chain shortages affecting many voter-approved regional transit expansion projects. Based on revenue projections and cost estimates, the [Board's plan identifies 2026/27](#) as the new timeframe to begin service on the Stride project. While this new timeline is later than the original opening date of 2024, the Sound Transit Board identified Stride as a top-tier project, resulting in the least amount of timeline delays when compared to other projects in the region.

The Board's Realignment decision prioritized expediting Stride service openings, while identifying later targets for opening the three planned park-and-ride facilities associated with the SR 522/NE 145th project:

- Additional parking at the Kenmore Park-and-Ride lot – scheduled for 2034
- New parking in downtown Bothell – scheduled for 2034
- New parking at the Lake Forest Park Town Center – scheduled for 2044

In fall 2021, the Sound Transit board identified the project to be built, meaning the project was authorized to move forward as generally shown in the 30% design. A [roll plot along 145th Street](#) in Shoreline illustrates design elements and potential property impacts of the project.

Since late 2021, Stride has continued conversations with jurisdictions along the corridor to ensure the project meets code requirements and the needs of their residents. Sound Transit staff have also reached out to potentially impacted property owners to clarify the design of the corridor and the property acquisition process. Sound Transit continues to work with jurisdictions and property owners to refine design details. The current message to impacted property owners is to be aware that draft designs do not include specific details for the proposed design on their properties; property owners will receive this information through the property acquisitions team.

The City continues conversations with Sound Transit regarding funding for non-motorized access improvement to the BRT station on 145th Street between 28th Avenue NE and 30th Avenue NE. The specific funding amount is still under discussion.

COUNCIL GOAL(S) ADDRESSED

Completion of this project closely addresses two 2022-2024 City Council goals:

- **Goal 2:** Continue to deliver highly-valued public services through management of the City's infrastructure and stewardship of the natural environment, and
- **Goal 3:** Continue preparation for regional mass transit in Shoreline.

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