

11/15/1999

Clerk 11/16/99
nw

Introduced By: Louise Miller

Proposed No.: 1999-0576

MOTION NO. **10808**

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21

A MOTION declaring King County's commitment to ensure that the Downtown Seattle Transit Tunnel will be available for priority use by the Sound Transit Central Link light rail system by the September service change in 2004 according to specific criteria to be established by legislation before the end of the first quarter of 2000.

WHEREAS, King County owns the downtown Seattle Transit tunnel (tunnel), and

WHEREAS, King County owns the E-3 busway that connects to the south end of the tunnel, and

WHEREAS, the city of Seattle owns the right of way for the tunnel and downtown streets, and

WHEREAS, King County constructed the tunnel to provide additional capacity for buses in downtown Seattle, and provide for the downtown segment of a future rail system, and

WHEREAS, it is recognized that the displacement of Metro buses from the tunnel will likely cause impacts to riders, including increased traffic congestion on downtown Seattle streets and longer travel times for some buses and other vehicles, and

WHEREAS, King County has established the value of its interest in the tunnel at approximately \$163,000,000, comprised of outstanding debt estimated at \$130,000,000 and equity of \$33,000,000 forecasted to September 2004, and

22 WHEREAS, the Central Puget Sound Regional Transit Authority (Sound Transit) proposes
23 using the tunnel for exclusive use of its voter-approved Central Link light rail system (light rail),
24 requiring relocation of bus service to downtown surface streets, and

25 WHEREAS, all three parties, which are the city of Seattle, Sound Transit and King
26 County, have been working together to reach agreement on issues regarding use, ownership and
27 operation of the tunnel and on accommodating increased bus traffic on downtown streets, and

28 WHEREAS, the King County Council, in Ordinance 11603, signed December 12, 1994,
29 affirmed that the county would continue to participate in Sound Transit, and

30 WHEREAS, the King County Council, in Motion 10448, passed April 27, 1998, authorized
31 the King County executive to enter into a memorandum of understanding establishing a
32 cooperative relationship between Sound Transit and King County, and

33 WHEREAS, the memorandum of understanding notes that Sound Transit will use the
34 tunnel as an integral part of its light rail program and that King County and Sound Transit will
35 reach agreement on the amount of compensation for any combination of use, operation, and
36 ownership, and on the appropriate terms of use for the tunnel, and

37 WHEREAS, the Sound Transit board is scheduled to adopt a locally preferred alternative
38 alignment and budget for the Central Link light rail line at its meeting on November 18, 1999, and

39 WHEREAS, an interlocal agreement specifying the terms, conditions and consideration for
40 use of and access to the tunnel will be executed by all three parties;

41 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT MOVED by the Council of King County:

42 The King County Council supports development of the regional transit system with the
43 expectation that all transit users, including light rail, bus, commuter rail, vanpool and rideshare,
44 will benefit from its services. Sound Transit use of the transit tunnel for light rail transportation
45 furthers the goal of completing the regional transit system. In the interest of implementing light
46 rail, the council fully intends to provide priority tunnel access for Sound Transit trains;

47
48
49
50
51
52
53
54
55
56
57
58
59
60
61
62
63
64
65
66
67
68

BE IT FURTHER MOVED:

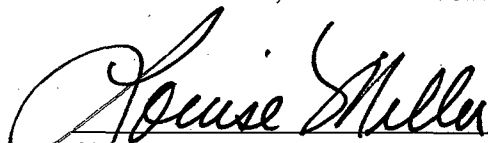
The King County Council affirms its purpose to complete negotiations regarding the criteria and conditions for the use of the tunnel in order to provide priority right-of-way for light rail trains:

A. An interlocal agreement will be effective at the September service change in the year 2004 or other mutually agreeable date.

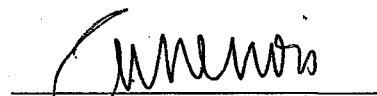
B. In recognition of the importance of the tunnel for light rail and of efficient bus operation on downtown streets, all three parties will execute a formal agreement or agreements regarding the tunnel by the first quarter of 2000, and, in any event, no later than the execution of a full funding grant agreement between Sound Transit and the Federal Transit Administration for the Central Link light rail project. Any remaining or outstanding issues will be resolved in this formal agreement.

PASSED by a vote of 11 to 0 this 15th day of November, 1999.

KING COUNTY COUNCIL
KING COUNTY, WASHINGTON


Chair

ATTEST:


Clerk of the Council

Attachments: None