

West Seattle BRT

King County, Washington

(November 2009)

The King County Department of Transportation, Metro Transit Division (King County Metro) proposes to construct a 12-mile street-running bus rapid transit (BRT) line from Westwood Village in West Seattle to the central business district in downtown Seattle. The BRT line will directly upgrade a local service operating with 20 to 30 minute peak period headways and an express service operating with 10 to 30 minute peak period headways; these and other routes in the corridor carry over 15,000 daily riders today. The project includes 12 high-amenity station pairs, traffic signal priority, and transit bypass lanes, as well as 15 low-floor, branded, diesel-hybrid vehicles. The proposed service will operate with 10-minute headways during peak hours and 15-minute headways during non-peak hours.

Summary Description	
Proposed Project:	Bus Rapid Transit
	12.0 Miles
	12 Station pairs, 1 Station, 15 Stops
Total Capital Cost (\$YOE):	\$28.37 Million
Section 5309 Small Starts Share (\$YOE):	\$21.27 Million (75.0%)
Annual Operating Cost (\$YOE):	\$9.00 Million
Opening Year Ridership Forecast (2011):	3,500 Average Weekday Boardings
FY 2011 Local Financial Commitment Rating:	Medium
FY 2011 Project Justification Rating:	Medium
FY 2011 Overall Project Rating:	Medium

Project Development History and Current Status

King County Metro identified bus rapid transit as a viable transportation strategy in the 2002 Six-Year Transit Development Plan and, more recently, identified five corridors for BRT implementation in the Strategic Plan for Public Transportation, 2007 – 2016. The West Seattle BRT project is one of the five corridors that together form the *RapidRide* system. FTA concurred that the project qualifies as a categorical exclusion in August 2009. FTA notified Congress of its intent to approve the project into Small Starts project development in November 2009 and took formal approval action in December 2009.

Project Justification Rating: Medium

The project justification rating is based on the weighted average of the ratings assigned to each of the following criteria: the cost-effectiveness criterion is weighted 33 percent; the transit supportive land use criterion is weighted 33 percent and the economic development criterion is weighted 33 percent.

Cost Effectiveness Rating: Medium

The West Seattle BRT project qualifies as a Very Small Start. The project includes low-cost elements such as service branding, low-floor buses operating at improved frequencies, substantial transit stations with real-time passenger information, and traffic signal priority to speed service, all of which FTA has determined to be cost-effective by their very nature, and therefore, the project receives a *Medium* rating for cost effectiveness.

Transit-Supportive Land Use and Economic Development Ratings: Medium

FTA considers Very Small Starts projects that meet the minimum existing ridership threshold of 3,000 daily boardings/benefiting riders to be, by definition, in corridors with transit-supportive land use appropriate to the proposed level of investment. Therefore, FTA assigns these projects a *Medium* rating for transit-supportive land use and economic development.

Local Financial Commitment Rating: Medium

The local financial commitment rating is based upon King County Metro's acceptable financial condition; a reasonable plan for funding for the non-New Starts share of capital costs; and evidence that operations and maintenance costs of the proposed project is less than five percent of the agency's operating budget.

Locally Proposed Financial Plan		
<u>Source of Funds</u>	<u>Total Funds (\$million)</u>	<u>Percent of Total</u>
Federal:		
Section 5309 Small Starts	\$21.27	75.0%
Local:		
Dedicated Sales and Use Tax	\$7.09	25.0%
Total:	\$28.37	100.0%

NOTE: The financial plan reflected in this table has been developed by the project sponsor and does not reflect a commitment by DOT or FTA. The sum of figures may differ from total as listed due to rounding.

West Seattle BRT

King County, Washington



