

Lakewood-to-Tacoma Commuter Rail

Tacoma, Washington
(November 2002)

Description

The Central Puget Sound Regional Transit Authority (Sound Transit) is proposing to implement peak-hour commuter rail service for an eight-mile segment linking Tacoma and Lakewood, Washington. The service will be part of the overall 82-mile *Sounder* commuter rail corridor serving 14 stations from Lakewood, through the downtowns of Tacoma and Seattle, and terminating in Everett, Washington. Service from Tacoma to Seattle began in September 2000. Sound Transit proposes to run eighteen trains per day (including reverse commute service) to the cities along the alignment, including Lakewood, South Tacoma, and Tacoma, connecting to stations in Puyallup, Sumner, Auburn, Kent, Tukwila, and Seattle. Two trains will run from Lakewood to Everett.

The project is estimated to cost \$86.0 million in escalated dollars, with a proposed Section 5309 New Starts share of \$24.9 million. Because the proposed New Starts share is less than \$25 million, the project is exempt from the New Starts criteria, and is thus not subject to FTA's evaluation and rating (49 USC 5309(e)(8)(A)).

Summary Description	
Proposed Project:	Lakewood-to-Tacoma Commuter Rail 8 Miles, 3 Stations
Total Capital Cost (\$YOE):	\$86.0 Million
Section 5309 New Starts Share (\$YOE):	\$24.9 Million (29%)
Annual Operating Cost:	N/A
Ridership Forecast:	2,800 Average Weekday Boardings

Status

Lakewood-to-Tacoma commuter rail service is scheduled to begin operations in 2004. The Final EIS was published in May 2000 and the Record of Decision was signed in June 2000. Sound Transit will be seeking Final Design authorization for this project in 2002.

TEA-21 Section 3030(a)(85) authorizes the "Sound Move Corridor" for Final Design and construction. Through FY 2002, Congress has appropriated \$79.32 million to the 82-mile *Sounder* commuter rail system.

Local Financial Commitment

Proposed Non-Section 5309 New Starts Share of Total Project Costs: 71%

The project's financial plan includes Section 5309 New Starts funding and local funding.

Locally Proposed Financial Plan		
<u>Proposed Source of Funds</u>	<u>Total Funding (\$million)</u>	<u>Percent of Total</u>
Federal: Section 5309 New Starts	\$24.9	29.0%
Local:	\$61.1	71.0%
Total:	\$86.0	100.0%

NOTE: Funding proposal reflects assumptions made by project sponsors, and are not DOT or FTA assumptions. Total may not add due to rounding.

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