

RESOLUTION NO. 1297

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF DES MOINES, WASHINGTON, to the Sound Transit Board recommending a Preferred Alignment and Kent-Des Moines Station location for the Federal Way Link Extension (FWLE), and expressing the Council's intent for City staff and City Council to work cooperatively with Sound Transit, the City of Kent, Highline College and other cities (Agencies) along the FWLE corridor to coordinate transportation and land use planning and development efforts to realize the best possible outcomes for all affected parties.

WHEREAS, in 2008 voters authorized Sound Transit to proceed with the expansion of their Link Light Rail System to include service from the South 200th Street Station in SeaTac to South 272nd Street under the Sound Transit 2 Plan, and

WHEREAS, the FWLE project crosses the boundaries of SeaTac, Des Moines, Kent and Federal Way and the City of Des Moines seeks to work cooperatively with Highline College to support the College, its students and operations, to minimize disruptions to property owners, businesses and residents, minimize adverse aesthetic, economic and environmental impacts, and provide safe vehicular and pedestrian access, utilities and aesthetic improvements along the corridor and within the station areas to support these goals, and

WHEREAS, the Cities of Des Moines and Kent (Cities) and Highline College anticipate significant transit oriented development in the Midway area as a result of the Sound Transit FLWE Kent-Des Moines Station that will significantly affect each City's land use, zoning, transportation system, residents, businesses, and Highline College, and

WHEREAS, the City of Des Moines expresses its intent to continue to work cooperatively to provide for development in a way to meet the operational and development needs and timetables of each Agency, and proposes to enter into more formal agreements for planning, design, construction and project mitigation, and

WHEREAS, City of Des Moines proposes that the Agencies agree to jointly pursue grant opportunities through State and Federal sources and supplemental funding sources, now therefore,

THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF DES MOINES RESOLVES AS FOLLOWS:

Sec. 1. That the City of Des Moines, having evaluated the environmental impacts associated with each of the alignment alternatives and station options in the FWLE Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS), recommends that the Sound Transit Board identify SR 509/I-5 as the Preferred Alternative Alignment to Federal Way with the Kent-Des Moines Station between 30th Avenue and SR 99 and returning to an I-5 alignment east of Lowe's, with the following additional recommendations that:

(1) The alignment be designed to minimize impacts to commercial and residential properties and maximize future development to the extent possible;

(2) The guideway alignment serve as an integrating urban design feature to the extent possible, not a structure that creates a visual or functional barrier to either Midway or to Highline College;

(3) The Kent-Des Moines Station be designed to enhance the development potential of Midway and properties fronting on Pacific Highway South (State Route 99);

(4) 236th Lane, both east and west of SR 99, be designed and fully developed to serve as a gateway to Highline College, the Kent-Des Moines Station depending on its location, and to Kent's Midway transit-oriented development area;

(5) Primary pedestrian access from the Kent-Des Moines Station to Highline College be by an elevated pedestrian/bicycle bridge from the Station across SR 99 to the College to make access as safe and convenient as possible, and to minimize vehicular and transit traffic impacts on SR 99;

(6) Direct public transportation transit access to the College campus not be compromised; and

(7) Traffic circulation at the I-5/Kent Des Moines (KDM) Road interchange and intersections at SR 99/KDM, 236th Lane/SR 99 and 240th/SR 99 be designed or mitigated in ways to maintain traffic capacity in both Kent and Des Moines and along Kent Des

Moines Road, SR 99, South 240th Street, and other impacted transportation corridors.

Sec. 2. That the City of Des Moines, proposes to Sound Transit, the City of Kent and Highline College, that the four agencies (and perhaps other agencies) enter into a formal agreement committing to joint planning, design, construction and operations once a Preferred Alternative is identified by the Sound Transit Board to address mutual and respective goals and to ensure (a) the highest levels of urban land use and design are achieved, (b) transit oriented development is maximized, (c) impacts to existing commercial businesses and future commercial development are minimized, and (d) Highline College current operations and future development, including pedestrian, transit and vehicular access, are enhanced to the extent possible.

ADOPTED BY the City Council of the City of Des Moines, Washington this 7th day of May, 2015 and signed in authentication thereof this 7th day of May, 2015.


MAYOR

APPROVED AS TO FORM:



City Attorney

ATTEST:



City Clerk