



MEMO TO: Mayor and Members of the City Council

FROM: Rob Odle, Planning and Community Development Director

DATE: February 21, 2017

SUBJECT: Downtown Transit Integration (TRAIN) Study and Southeast Redmond Station Area Values

I. RECOMMENDED ACTION

No action is required at this time. A study session on the preliminary preferred station area concept is scheduled for February 28, 2017.

II. DEPARTMENT CONTACTS

Rob Odle, Director of Planning and Community Development	425-556-2417
Nina Rivkin, Chief Policy Advisor	425-556-2103
Colleen Kelly, Assistant Director for Community Planning	425-556-2423
Don Cairns, P.E., Transportation Planning and Engineering Manager	425-556-2834
Jeff Churchill, AICP, Transportation Strategic Advisor	425-556-2492

III. DESCRIPTION/BACKGROUND

The Sound Transit Board is expected to update the preferred alternative for the East Link extension to Southeast Redmond and Downtown Redmond in May 2017. This memo describes how the City Council can provide timely input for both the Downtown and Southeast Redmond station areas.

Link Light Rail Extension

The East Link extension to Southeast Redmond and Downtown Redmond is targeted to open in 2024. Preliminary design for the extension has begun and is expected to continue through the middle of 2018. An early task in this phase is “concept refinement,” where Sound Transit reviews the existing preferred alternative and considers changes to it in light of changed conditions.

At the end of concept refinement the Sound Transit Board will update the preferred alignment, station locations, and vertical profile (at grade, elevated, etc.) for design of the East Link extension. Board action is expected in May 2017. The City’s opportunity to provide input to concept refinement is in the next three months.

Downtown

The City's Downtown Transit Integration (TRAIN) Study serves as the vehicle through which the City will make a recommendation on the Downtown station location and vertical profile. That work is nearing completion and this memo describes public input and a preliminary preferred station area concept for Council consideration at the Council's February 28, 2017, study session. See Attachment A for TRAIN Study background.

Southeast Redmond

The preferred alternative for the Southeast Redmond alignment is also expected to be updated by the Sound Transit Board in May. This memo also includes issues previously identified by the Council for the Southeast Redmond station area, and provides a draft list of values for Council consideration. Staff will seek input and concurrence on these values at the Council's February 28, 2017, study session.

TRAIN Study Public Engagement Outcomes

The City hosted a public meeting on January 26, 2017, at City Hall in order to understand how the community prioritizes transit access, land use/urban design, mobility, and safety to aid in developing a preliminary preferred Downtown station area concept. About 65 community members attended the public meeting and 51 completed questionnaires that evening. An additional 349 community members completed an online questionnaire that was available through February 5, 2017. Concept drawings, videos and evaluation materials are online at www.redmond.gov/LightRailExtension.

The summary results from the questionnaires are:

- **Alignment:** Elevated is strongly preferred over an at-grade alignment (83% vs. 17%)
- **Location:** The east location is preferred over the west location (64% vs. 36%)
- **Values:** Mobility and safety are the #1 and #2 values, respectively
- **Other:** The night-of participants skewed more heavily to Downtown residents and employees, while online participants were more geographically diverse

See Attachment B, Downtown Transit Integration (TRAIN) Study Public Input Summary, for more detailed results.

Preliminary Preferred Downtown Station Area Concept for Council Consideration

Based on the station area concept evaluation and community input, staff is recommending that the Downtown Redmond light rail station be located between 164th Ave NE and 166th Ave NE (the east location) and that it be elevated, Concept 3. Staff's evaluation and community input confirm that there are a number of design and operational issues that will be important to further develop during the design process, including, but not limited to, design of the Redmond Central Connector and elevated guideway structure, bus transit operations, light rail vehicle storage, and utility conflicts.

Southeast Redmond Station Area

The City Council previously identified the following high priority issues for the Southeast Redmond station area:

- Park-and-Ride: The 1,400-stall garage must seamlessly integrate into the surrounding transit-oriented neighborhood
- East Lake Sammamish Trail Connection Through SR 520: The East Link crossing of SR 520 should construct the missing section of the East Lake Sammamish Trail that connects to the Redmond Central Connector
- Transit-Oriented Development (TOD) Planning: This station is the City’s highest TOD planning priority for this ST3 light rail extension.
- Station access, including non-motorized access.

The City will provide input to Sound Transit on whether the alignment in Southeast Redmond should be elevated or at grade. Staff proposes the following values to guide the City’s input on an at-grade vs. elevated alignment:

- Safety: minimizing the potential conflicts between pedestrians, bicyclist, and vehicles in the vicinity of the station; and, minimizing conflicts between trains and pedestrians, bicyclists, and vehicles
- Access to transit: convenient access to bus and rail transit at the station for people arriving by all modes; and,
- Integration with the neighborhood: supporting the vision for the Marymoor Subarea, especially in terms of urban design and scale.

Staff will provide an update to Council at the February 21, 2017, meeting on the discussion with the Planning Commission on the Southeast Redmond station area that occurred on February 8, 2017. That discussion occurred in the context of the Commission’s review of the Marymoor Subarea Comprehensive Plan and Zoning Code Amendment package.

IV. PREVIOUS DISCUSSIONS HELD

City Council Actions and Discussion

Past and anticipated future Council discussion and action dates are provided in the table below. At the February 28, 2017, study session staff will share a Downtown preliminary preferred station area concept in more detail and discuss values to guide City input to Sound Transit on the Southeast Redmond station area. The goal is to achieve Council consensus on a preliminary preferred station area concept and values to guide City input to Sound Transit on the Southeast Redmond station area.

	Date	Action/Discussion
(past)	2015-16	Council study sessions and briefings re: ST3, transit principles, and the TRAIN study
	1/17/17	Council staff report on station area concepts and public engagement

	Date	Action/Discussion
<i>(tonight)</i>	2/21/17	<i>Council staff report on TRAIN public input, preliminary preferred Downtown station area concept, and draft values for Southeast Redmond station area</i>
(future)	2/28/17	Council study session to recommend preliminary preferred Downtown station area concept and Southeast Redmond station area values

V. IMPACT

A. Service/Delivery:

The TRAIN Study will result in a recommended preliminary preferred station area concept that the City will provide to Sound Transit for evaluation. The results of this study will also be integrated into the draft Transit Strategic Plan for Council review and adoption in summer 2017.

B. Fiscal Note:

The City Council authorized \$150,000 for the TRAIN study in July 2016.

VI. ALTERNATIVES TO STAFF RECOMMENDATION

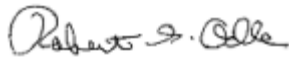
N/A

VII. TIME CONSTRAINTS

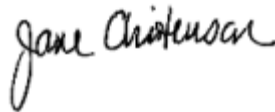
Input must be conveyed prior to board action in May 2017 to be most effective in informing the alignment, station locations, and vertical profile in the Downtown and Southeast Redmond station areas.

VIII. LIST OF ATTACHMENTS

- A. Downtown Transit Integration (TRAIN) Study Staff Report from January 17, 2017
- B. Downtown Transit Integration (TRAIN) Study Public Input Summary



Robert G. Odle, Director of Planning and Community Development



Approved for Agenda _____

Jane Christenson, Deputy City Administrator