

North Link First Hill Work Plan

Sound Transit Board Meeting
August 25, 2005



Background

- July 28 Board meeting:
 - In response to items in tabled First Hill motion, staff directed to develop First Hill work plan for Finance and Executive Committee review prior to Board action
- August 4 committee meetings:
 - First Hill work plan reviewed

Work Plan Tasks and Deliverables

- Work plan activities to be performed by agency staff using existing resources and available information*
- Deliverables to be reported back to Board at least 4 weeks prior to final Board decision on North Link project*

* If directed by Board, phase 2 transit connection work would be conducted after final adoption of North Link and may require consultant resources

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1. Evaluate cost/benefits of securing additional construction staging areas to support construction of First Hill station

Deliverables:

- Preliminary property acquisition/relocation cost estimates
- Description of potential construction activities on identified sites
- Qualitative assessment of cost, risk reduction, and schedule benefits

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2. Evaluate alternate methods for stabilizing soils in support of First Hill station excavations, including consideration of ground freezing

Deliverables: Assessment of

- Alternative methods for stabilizing soils
 - Review ground freezing proposed by design-build contractor
 - Review of case histories in similar soils
- Construction staging requirements for alternative methods
- Qualitative assessment of construction cost and risk reduction and schedule benefits

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3. Evaluate cost, risks, and benefits of raising profile, shifting station platforms or making other design changes at First Hill station location to place platform caverns in more favorable soils

Deliverables:

- Assessment of construction and operations risks and benefits of raising profile and/or shifting location of underground caverns
- Qualitative comparison between potential design modifications and current PE design

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4. Evaluate construction sequence review with the objective of mitigating schedule delay risks

- Construction sequencing plan developed for construction between DSTT and UW station was developed specifically to mitigate construction and schedule risks associated with the First Hill station construction

Deliverables: No further work to be performed unless directed by Board

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5. Determine if other First Hill light rail station locations would reduce construction costs and risks and retain ridership

Deliverables:

- Planning level comparisons of construction costs, environmental impacts, and ridership projections to baseline First Hill station location

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6. Analyze potential feasibility, benefits, and costs associated with providing alternative transit connections to First Hill neighborhood

Deliverables:

- Phase 1: Feasibility study presented to Board to narrow options
 - Includes comparative costs, environmental impacts, and ridership
- Phase 2: Detailed report on narrowed options
 - Conducted after the final adoption of the North Link project
 - Consultant resources may be required

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7. Consistent with FTA guidelines, analyze enhancements to ridership model to more accurately reflect impact of rail

Deliverables:

- Progress report on efforts to advance industry practice to incorporate reliability into ridership forecasts and any changes in FTA ridership forecasting policy

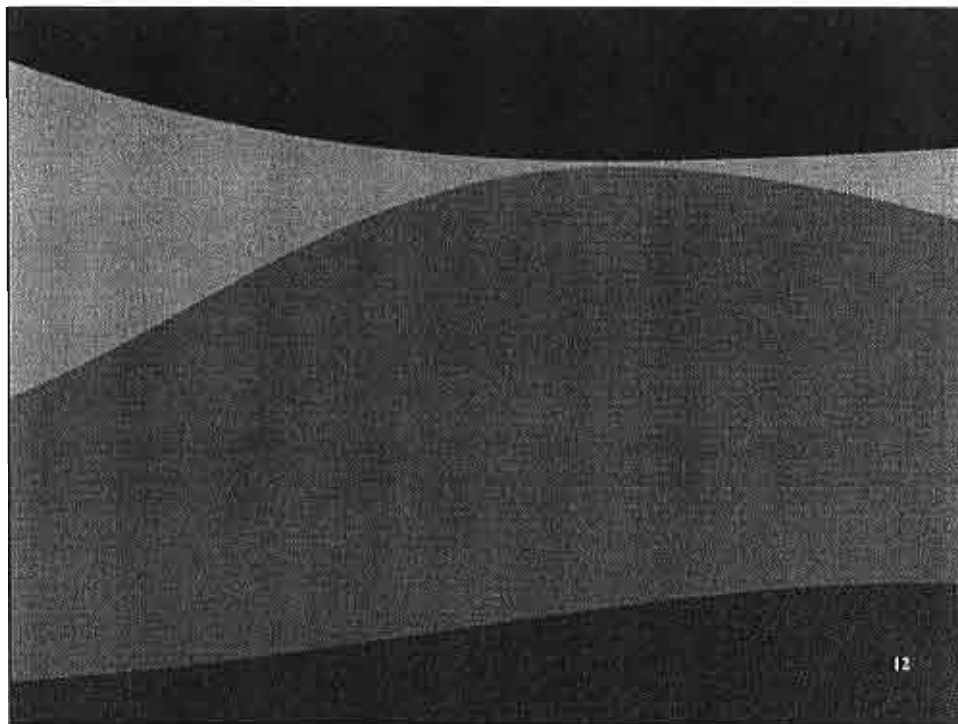
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8. Analyze alternative options for competitive alignment in federal funding process, including ridership estimates that use local funding to pay for Downtown to First Hill with an application for federal funding from Capitol Hill to Brooklyn

- Sound Transit unable to show financing plan for downtown to Capitol Hill segment with First Hill and local match for federalized segment
- FTA would reject application for federal funding from Capitol Hill to Brooklyn, regardless of project merits

Deliverables: No further work to be performed unless directed by Board

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Rail Spur Work Plan

Deliverables:

- Phase 1: Definition of a potential rail spur from Capitol Hill to First Hill, including technology, operation and maintenance, and route concepts
- Phase 2: Conceptual engineering design and cost estimates
 - Initiated at the discretion of the Board after review of Phase 1
 - Consultant resources required