

Requirements of Sound Transit System Planning under WA State Law

WA RCW 81.104 and 81.112

81.104

.015

Demonstrate that the HCT system projects will “operate principally on exclusive rights-of-way”

Demonstrate that the supporting services are “necessary to implement such a system” and include “interim express services”

Demonstrate that the system, compared to” traditional public transportation systems” “as a whole, provides a substantially higher level of:

- passenger capacity
- speed
- service frequency”

.070

Demonstrate that the System Plan and the supporting financial plan provide for the “planning and construction” of the system and component projects

Demonstrate that the System Plan and the supporting financial plan provide for the (long term) “operations” of the system and component projects

“Consult with affected local jurisdiction and cooperate with comprehensive planning processes”

.080

“Address the relationship between urban growth and an effective HCT system plan”

“Provide for cooperation between local jurisdictions and transit agencies

“Ensure that the HCT system plan gets “included in the designated regional transportation planning organization’s regional transportation plan”

Ensure that "the implementation program for HCT systems shall favor cities and counties with supportive land use plans"

"Insure (sic) the opportunity for public comment and participation in the siting of (HCT) facilities"

"Promote transit-compatible land uses and development which includes joint development"

.100

Identify "regional goals"

Analyze "travel patterns"

Analyze "future land use"

Project "travel"

"Identify priority corridor(s)"

Identify "corridors for further study"

Evaluate "a range of HCT system options:

- Do nothing
- Low capital
- Ranges of higher capital facilities"

"Take into account (pertinent/applicable) UMTA (now FTA) requirements"

Define roles for various local agencies"

Review background information"

"Develop a detailed work plan for the system planning process"

Ensure that an appropriate range of technologies and service policies can be studied"

"Develop reports describing the analysis and assumptions for:

- Estimation of Capital Costs
- Estimation of O&M costs

- Travel forecasting
- Financial plan(ning)
- (Project and System) Evaluation

Identify:

- "Level and types of HCT services to be provided
- Plan of HOV lanes to be constructed
- Route alignments sufficient specificity to permit calculation of costs, ridership and system impacts
- Station locations with sufficient specificity to permit calculation of costs, ridership and system impacts
- Performance characteristics of technologies in the system plan
- Patronage forecasts
- A finance plan describing:
 - Phasing of investments
 - Capital costs
 - O&M costs
 - Expected revenues
 - Cost effectiveness (total cost per system rider
 - Cost effectiveness (total cost per new rider)
 - Estimated ridership
 - Cost of service for each HCT line
 - OR/OE ratio
 - Proposed use of funds between HCT facilities & services and HOV facilities
- Relationship between the HCT system plan and adopted land use plans
- Social impacts
- Economic impacts
- Environmental impacts

- Mobility characteristics of the system
 - Qualitative description of system/service philosophy and impacts
 - Qualitative system reliability
 - Travel time
 - Numbers of transfers between selected residential, employment and activity centers
 - System mode splits
 - (selected) Activity center mode splits

Identify:

- Alignments
- Station locations
- Equipment and systems
- Construction schedules
- Environmental effects
- Costs

Analyze and produce information needed for the preparation of EISs

Identify a priority corridor or corridors for further HCT study

.130

Determine optimal debt-to-equity ratios

Establish capital and operations allocations

Establish fare-box recovery policy

.140

(Identify) other funds, including:

- Federal
- State
- Local
- Private sector

Provide to registered voters in the (district) a document describing the system plan and the financing plan

- Describe the relationship of the system to regional issues such as:

- Development density at station locations
 - Development density at activity centers
 - Adopted land use goals
 - Transportation demand management goals
- Produce a local voters' pamphlet

81.112

.030

"Review local transit agencies' plans to ensure:

- Feeder service/HCT service integration,
- Fare integration, and
- Avoidance of parallel competitive services"

The authority shall also conduct a minimum thirty-day public comment period.

The system plan approved by the authority's board before the submittal of a proposition to the voters shall contain an equity element which:

- Identifies revenues anticipated to be generated by corridor and by county within the authority's boundaries;
- Identifies the phasing of construction and operation of high capacity system facilities, services and benefits in each corridor; and
- identifies the degree to which revenues generated within each county will benefit the residents of that county
 - identifies when such benefits will accrue