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Sound Transit Public Involvement Questionnaire

Web and Phone

May 14 – June 19, 2008

Web N = 5,661

Phone N = 416

Sound Transit administered a questionnaire seeking public input on system expansion options, with the ability for residents to participate through the agency’s website or by calling a hotline and using a touch-tone phone. A total of 6,077 responses were received, including 5,661 website responses and 416 responses by phone.

As respondents to this questionnaire were self-selecting and knew the questionnaire topic and the sponsor, the questionnaire results are not representative of a larger audience, and cannot be projected with statistical reliability beyond those who took the questionnaire.

**All numbers are reported as percentages unless otherwise noted.
Some questions may add up to more/less than 100% due to rounding.**

		<u>Overall</u>	<u>Web</u>	<u>Phone</u>
Method	Web	93%		
	Phone	7%		
1. First, please enter your five-digit zip code. (Recoded into ST District)				
	Snohomish	9%	9%	9%
	North King	30%	30%	23%
	East King	21%	21%	18%
	South King	12%	12%	17%
	Pierce	18%	18%	26%
	Not Answered	2%	2%	0%
	Outside/Other	9%	9%	7%

Overall

Web

Phone

2. How urgent do you think it is to expand the mass transit system by adding more light rail, commuter rail and regional express bus service?

Extremely urgent	76%		77%		60%	
Somewhat urgent	14%	=> 91%	14%	=> 91%	14%	74%
Not urgent	4%	=> 4%	4%	=> 4%	14%	14%
Do not support	4%		4%		8%	
Not sure	1%		1%		2%	
Not Answered	1%		1%		3%	

The Sound Transit Board is considering a number of options for a mass transit ballot measure in 2008 or 2010. All of the options increase access to fast, frequent and reliable transportation options as our population continues to grow. They enable people to avoid sitting in congestion, save money at the gas pump, and reduce greenhouse gas emissions. The ballot measure is proposed to include a mix of different transit services.

3. What do you think about adding more light rail?

Extremely urgent	61%		62%		52%	
Somewhat urgent	20%	=> 81%	20%	=> 82%	14%	=> 66%
Not urgent	6%	=> 6%	6%	=> 6%	15%	=> 15%
Do not support	9%		9%		10%	
Not sure	2%		2%		3%	
Not Answered	1%		1%		6%	

4. What do you think about adding more commuter rail?

Extremely urgent	48%		48%		49%	
Somewhat urgent	33%	=> 81%	34%	=> 82%	23%	=> 72%
Not urgent	10%	=> 10%	9%	=> 9%	15%	=> 15%
Do not support	6%		7%		5%	
Not sure	1%		2%		1%	
Not Answered	1%		1%		6%	

	<u>Overall</u>	<u>Web</u>	<u>Phone</u>
5. What about adding more regional express bus service, with projects to help buses travel more quickly?			
Extremely urgent	48%	48%	49%
Somewhat urgent	33% => 81%	34% => 82%	23% => 72%
Not urgent	10% => 10%	9% => 9%	15% => 15%
Do not support	6%	7%	5%
Not sure	1%	2%	1%
Not Answered	1%	1%	6%

In April, the Sound Transit Board identified new mass transit expansion options that can be completed in 12 years. In contrast, the larger package that was part of last year's transportation ballot measure that voters rejected would have been completed in 20 years. Unlike last year, any new ballot measure in 2008 or 2010 would fund only transit projects. Sound Transit wants your input on these new options.

The 12-year options include up to 23 miles of light rail extensions, expanded regional express bus service, expanded commuter rail service between Tacoma and Seattle, and more access to transit stations. Further transit expansions not included in a 12-year package would be deferred to a separate public vote in the future.

There are two 12-year variations. The first would increase the local sales tax by four cents on a \$10 retail purchase, which equates to about \$55 per adult per year. This 0.4 percent package would extend light rail east to Mercer Island and Bellevue, south of Sea-Tac Airport, and north through the University District to Northgate. It also would expand express bus service, improve access to transit facilities, expand Sounder commuter rail service, and build a light rail connector serving Seattle's First Hill and Capitol Hill areas.

The second 12-year variation is slightly larger, increasing the local sales tax by five cents on a \$10 retail purchase, or about \$69 per adult per year. This 0.5 percent option includes all of the previous elements, plus it extends light rail further east to Redmond's Overlake area and further south to Highline Community College. It also invests in a project to speed bus service on Highway 99 in Shoreline and extends the light rail connector service further north into Capitol Hill.

6. Of these two 12-year options, which do you prefer?

0.4% option	24%	25%	17%
0.5% option	46%	47%	33%
Dont like either	24%	23%	31%
Dont Know	3%	3%	6%
Not Answered	4%	3%	13%

Overall

Web

Phone

Rather than pursuing a 12-year plan, the region could go forward with a 20-year plan similar to last year. This would also be financed by a sales tax increase of five cents per \$10 retail purchase, or about \$69 per adult per year. The 20-year plan emphasizes the construction of 50 miles of new light rail running east from Seattle to Bellevue and Redmond; south from Sea-Tac Airport to Tacoma; and from Seattle to north of Lynnwood. This 20-year package would require only one public vote. In contrast, moving forward with a 12-year approach would defer some of the projects to a second public vote.

7. Which of the following options best expresses your view?

20-year option	43%	44%	26%
12-year option	31%	32%	26%
Dont support either	14%	13%	22%
Dont support expanding mass transit	3%	3%	3%
Undecided	6%	6%	7%
Not Answered	3%	2%	16%

We're close to wrapping up now. Sound Transit is seeking input on when it should submit a transit expansion measure to voters.

8. When do you think the region should vote on whether to expand mass transit?

2008	76%	78%	51%
2010	10%	10%	10%
After 2010	3%	3%	7%
Never	5%	5%	11%
Dont Know	3%	3%	5%
Not Answered	3%	2%	16%

The following questions are for statistical purposes only:

	<u>Overall</u>	<u>Web</u>	<u>Phone</u>
9. Please enter the 4 digits of the year you were born.			
<17	0%	0%	1%
18-24	6%	6%	3%
25-29	11%	12%	2%
30-34	14%	14%	2%
35-39	12%	12%	5%
40-44	11%	11%	6%
45-49	10%	10%	6%
50-54	10%	10%	10%
55-59	8%	9%	6%
60-64	6%	5%	10%
65+	8%	6%	27%
Not Answered	5%	4%	18%
Other	1%	1%	3%

10. And your gender?

Male	56%	57%	40%
Female	40%	40%	41%
Not Answered	4%	3%	19%

Thank you for taking the time to share your priorities. If you have additional thoughts or want to give us more detailed feedback, please stay on the line to learn about four different ways you can provide further comment.

- First, you can visit Sound Transit online at www.soundtransit.org.
 - Second, you can come to one of the open houses that Sound Transit is holding around the region in May and June. The dates and locations are available on our website, again at www.soundtransit.org.
 - Third, you can e-mail comments to future@soundtransit.org.
- Finally, you can send your written comments to Sound Transit, 401 S. Jackson St., Seattle, WA 98104.

Again, we appreciate your participation. Have a great day.