University Link Project

“Making the Case for New Starts”

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Sound Transit, Seattle
Rail-Volution
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Sound Transit

Central Link

Light Rail

Initial Segment (13.9 miles)
Open: July 2009

Airport Link (1.7 miles)
Open: Dec. 2009
University Link Project

- 3.15 mile north extension to Initial Segment
  - Capitol Hill Station
  - UW Station and crossover
- Design: 2 years
- Construction: 6.5 years
- System testing: 6 months
- Project completion: 2016
Capitol Hill Station
University of Washington Station
U-Link Benefits

- Connects the region’s 3 largest urban centers
- Serves UW, SCCC & Seattle U with combined 56,000 students
- Travel times:
  - UWS to downtown: 9 min.
  - CHS to downtown: 6 min
- Ridership:
  - Adds 70,000 daily boardings for a total of 114,000 systemwide daily boardings by 2030
Steps to Secure New Starts Funding

Completed:
✓ PE authority – December 2005
✓ FTA Record of Decision – June 2006
✓ Final Design authority – December 2006

Anticipated:
☑ Full Funding Grant Agreement - $750 million
  - application – January 2008
  - execution – summer 2008
Final Design Progress

• Final Design Teams
  – NorthLink Transit Partners: civil
  – LTK: systems

• Early FD tasks completed:
  – refined design and scope,
    including consideration of Value Engineering
  – established contract packaging
  – applied lessons learned from Initial Segment
  – verified costs, including quantities and unit prices
  – updated right-of-way costs
  – applied current escalation factors
  – updated risk analysis
Baseline Cost Estimate (BCE)

- Board adopted capital BCE is $1,614 M (YOE$)
- BCE includes 24% for contingencies
- Updated risk analysis indicates 90% confidence in completing project within budget and schedule
- The adopted BCE reflects:
  - latest inflation factors for construction costs
  - updated estimates for right-of-way costs
  - Link staffing needs consistent with the Project Management Plan and Staffing Plan
  - more detailed design
  - final contract packaging/construction sequencing
  - lessons learned from Initial Segment
Project Costs – Federal Share

- Project BCE: $1,614 million
- Financing costs: + 184 million*
- Total project budget: $1,798 million

- Federal share: 42.4% of the total
  - $762M federal contribution
    ($750M New Starts + $9M CMAQ + $3M Sec. 5309)

* Approx. cost through 2016, per FTA guidelines
U-Link New Starts Rating

• Received FTA’s highest rating in 2005 and 2006

• Local Financial Commitment: Medium-High
• Project Justification: Medium-High
• Overall Project Rating: High

• Cost Effectiveness = $22.26
  (incremental cost/user benefits, 2007 submittal)
Making the Case

• U-Link corridor:
  – dense urban corridor
  – strong all-day, 2-way transit markets and high ridership
  – TOD policies in place

• Corridor problems > U-Link benefits:
  – traffic congestion > creates new transportation corridor
  – slow bus service > much faster rail travel times
  – limited regional access > improved urban center access
  – unreliable bus service > reliable light rail service
  – potential limits to UW growth > improved transit access
  – difficult access to sports venues > improved access to venues
Making the Case (Continued)

• U-Link benefits vs. “Baseline” results:
  – 71,000 daily riders (22 million/yr) in 2030
  – 17,400 “new” daily riders
  – 4.5 million hours of total user benefits annually

• Lessons learned and advice to other agencies:
  – must start with attractive, competitive project
  – defining the “Baseline” is critical
  – document supportive land use actions and TOD policies
  – support with strong ridership forecasting expertise
  – need substantial commitment of staff and consultant resources
Questions?
### University Link BCE
(YOE$ in millions)

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Project Phase</th>
<th>Adopted</th>
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<tr>
<td>Link Staffing</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
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