SYSTEM ACCESS POLICY

Sound Transit seeks to maximize customer access to its transit services, for purposes of enabling and promoting ridership. The System Access Policy establishes a framework for Sound Transit’s support and management of, and investment in, infrastructure and facilities to provide customer access to its transit services and to enable and promote ridership. Sound Transit will seek to provide or facilitate improvements in access to transit services in cooperation with public and private entities as allowed by applicable laws, regulations, plans and policies. When designing transit facilities Sound Transit will maximize pedestrian, bike and transit access and provide parking capacity within available resources.

Sound Transit’s mission is to plan, build, and operated regional transit systems and services to improve mobility for central Puget Sound. Sound Transit is committed to wisely managing public funds while fulfilling the mission. Sound Transit’s responsibility is to provide and operate a high-capacity transit system delivering fast, frequent transit service that connects the region’s urban centers. Sound Transit may only use its tax revenues to plan, construct and operate high-capacity transit as defined in its enabling legislation (81.104 RCW). Facilitating access to its regional high capacity transit system is key to fulfilling the agency’s mission.

1) PURPOSE

The goals of the System Access Policy and Sound Transit’s system access efforts are to:

A. Increase transit ridership

B. Encourage convenient and safe connections to Sound Transit services through all access modes including:
   - Connecting transit and ferry services
   - Paratransit pick-up and drop-off
   - Pedestrian access
   - Bicycle access
   - Private vehicle pick-up and drop-off
   - Vehicles requiring parking

2) SYSTEM ACCESS INVESTMENTS

Sound Transit will facilitate access to its transit services on its properties and work cooperatively with local jurisdictions to promote access from surrounding communities. Sound Transit may participate in two types of system access investments:

A. Transit Facilities: Transit facility investments include all properties, structures and improvements owned or controlled by Sound Transit. Transit facility investments are made for the purpose of enabling customers to access Sound Transit services. Sound Transit
design of transit facilities and investment in access infrastructure will take into consideration the following:

- Ridership
- Costs to Sound Transit
- Sound Transit and local jurisdiction plans and planning documents
- Public input

B. **Access Infrastructure**: Access infrastructure investments include improvements, facilities, signage and systems designed to provide access to Sound Transit facilities from surrounding communities. Access infrastructure investments may be made by Sound Transit or others. Sound Transit may take a lead or a support role in identifying and implementing access infrastructure investments.

C. Sound Transit will work cooperatively with local jurisdictions to manage parking demand at and near transit facilities and to encourage pedestrian, bicycle and transit access to facilities, maximizing efficient use of available transit parking resources.

D. Sound Transit may encourage and support bicycle usage at its stations and facilities through bicycle-related infrastructure and equipment, usage fees and agreements with outside parties.

3) **PARKING MANAGEMENT**

A. **Parking for Transit Use Only.** Parking provided by Sound Transit is intended for and restricted to customers of transit services at the facility. Sound Transit may allow exceptions for other purposes including:

- Security or service vehicles or other Sound Transit purposes
- Vending, community or other incidental facility uses as permitted by Sound Transit
- Vanshare or public shuttle vehicles under an agreement between Sound Transit and a public agency
- Carshare or private-provider shuttle vehicles under an agreement between Sound Transit and a third party
- Parking that is provided through a joint-use, lease, or other agreement with a third party for shared transit and non-transit uses
- Parking for commuters forming carpools or vanpools, when specifically allowed and posted by Sound Transit at parking facilities with sufficient unused capacity and without denying parking access to transit users
- Temporary use for non-transit purposes as authorized by Sound Transit at facilities with sufficient unused capacity and at such times as will not deny parking access to transit users

B. **Parking Management Tools**
1. Sound Transit may implement parking management tools to increase ridership, ensure parking availability for transit users and efficient use of parking facilities, support transit and facility operations, and support transit access improvements:
   - Designated parking for high-occupancy vehicles and vanpool vehicles
   - Designated parking for transit parking permit holders
   - Parking validation systems
   - Parking fees
   - Parking management technology, including electronic signage, parking management systems, parking space availability monitoring and reporting systems, or any other technical components

2. All fees and pricing require Board approval.

C. Parking Time Limit. The general time limit for Sound Transit parking is 24 hours unless otherwise posted or noted.

D. Prohibited Practices and Uses. The following practices and uses are prohibited at Sound Transit parking facilities and are subject to the penalties in subsection E below:
   - Parking by non-transit patrons except as provided in this policy
   - Parking in excess of the posted time limit
   - Parking without proper validation, payment of fee or display of permit, as required and posted
   - Improperly parking vehicles to use more than one stall or parking on or across stall markings or extending beyond the marked length of the parking stall, including motorhomes, commercial or non-commercial vehicles
   - Parking in "No Parking" zones
   - Blocking entrances or exits
   - Camping in vehicles
   - Parking for the primary purpose of advertising the vehicle for sale
   - Parking in bus zones or passenger pickup/drop-off areas
   - Retail or commercial parking except as provided in this policy
   - Vehicle storage for residential or commercial purposes
   - Abandoned vehicles
   - Vehicle maintenance or repair other than emergency repairs
   - Parking with trailer attached
   - Parking of large or oversized vehicles, including vehicles exceeding a load limit of 10,000 lbs.

E. Enforcement Actions. Where authorized by applicable law, Sound Transit may implement the following penalties for the activities prohibited in this policy:

1. A written warning;
2. A parking infraction, citation or fee notice for monetary penalty;
3. Attach a device to a vehicle’s wheel to prevent it from being moved until a monetary penalty or release fee is paid;
4. Tow vehicles at owners risk and expense.

F. Contracting of Management and Enforcement. Sound Transit may contract any portion of its parking management responsibilities to a third party.

G. Parking Lot Ownership. Generally, Sound Transit’s policies will only apply to parking facilities that it owns, has a leasehold interest in or controls. To the extent that facilities are co-owned and operated, an interlocal agreement will identify a lead agency whose policies will apply.