

VII. STANDING COMMITTEES

B. Finance, Audit and Facilities Committee

Transit Services Contract Extension – King County Metro and Sound Transit

RECOMMENDED ACTION

It is the recommendation of the administration and the Finance, Audit and Facilities Committee that the President be delegated authority to execute a \$12 million transit services contract extension with King County Metro and Sound Transit for the period of July 1, 2007 to June 30, 2008.

BACKGROUND

The University has had contracts with transit agencies since 1991 as part of its award winning U-PASS Program. Transit services are provided to students, staff and faculty of the UW Seattle Campus, Harborview Medical Center, UW Bothell and Cascadia Community College. (Cascadia costs are recharged to that institution. An independent and much smaller transit services contract is signed for UW Tacoma.) The U-PASS program has reduced automobile trips, decreased traffic congestion and has provided significant increases in transit service. The percentage of commute trips by employees and students in the U District taken by transit has increased from 21% in 1989, prior to the U-PASS program, to 39% in 2006.

King County Metro bus fares have not increased since 2001 and no fare increase is expected during this contract period. Growth in Metro transit ridership will result in value of the King County Metro portion of the contract to increase from \$10.5 million in 2006-7 to \$10.7 million in 2007-8.

Sound Transit (ST) *bus* fares have not increased since 2005 and no *bus* fare increase is expected during this contract period. ST *train* fares will increase in 2007 leading to a small increase in overall ST cost per trip (from \$1.75 per trip to \$1.80). This increase in cost per rider, and especially a growth in ST transit ridership, will result the value of the Sound Transit portion of the contract to increase from \$.9 million in 2006-7 to \$1.3 million in 2007-8.

The U-PASS program is funded with U-PASS fees, parking fees and fines and central sources. There is sufficient funding to support the transit costs projected for 2007-8. In the coming year, the administration will gain better information about future transit costs. The Administration expects to review U-PASS fees, and parking fees and fines for the campus in the U District and will propose to modify those fees and fines within the next year as required to support future transit and other costs of the Commuter Transportation system.