



February 13, 2004

Subject File Code #AD8131

Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission
Attention: Ahmer Nizam
1300 S.Evergreen Park Drive S.W.
Olympia, Washington 98504-7250

Subject: Grade Crossing Protective Fund

Dear Mr. Nizam:

Enclosed for your consideration is an application from Sound Transit for WUTC Grade Crossing Protective funds. The grant funding would provide grade crossing improvements along Sound Transit's Sounder Commuter Rail Tacoma-to-Lakewood rail corridor.

Sound Transit recently executed an agreement with Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railway Company that will transfer ownership of railroad right-of-way from Tacoma to Lakewood. Sound Transit plans to improve the right-of-way so it may implement commuter rail service along the corridor. This will include improvements at several grade crossings.

This package includes applications for the following five projects listed below. Sound Transit appreciates the Commission's consideration of these crossings in its 2004 Grade Crossing Protective Fund program.

Table with 4 columns: Project Title, Location, WSDOT No, Railroad. Rows include C Street, D Street, S. 35th Street, S. 56th Street, and S. 58th Street (Closure).

Please contact Melissa Parales Flores, Sounder Project Coordinator, at 206.689.4968 or Monica Overby, Grants Administrator, at 206.689.4979, if you have any questions concerning this grant application package.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Lisa Wolterink

Lisa Wolterink
Grants Manager

Enclosure

cc: Monica Overby, Grants Administrator
Melissa Parales Flores, Project Coordinator, Sounder Railroad Infrastructure
Mike Merrick, Program Manager, Sounder Lakewood/Tacoma Corridor

LW:mf:ps

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1300 S. Evergreen Park Drive SW
Post Office Box 47250

Olympia, Washington 98504-7250

Toll-Free 1-888-606-9566 or 360-664-1222

Fax 360-586-1181 or 360-586-1118

TTY 360-586-8203 or 1-877-210-5963

Web: www.wutc.wa.gov

Grade Crossing Protection Fund SOUND TRANSIT'S APPLICATION FOR FUNDING

Project: South 58th Street Closure (Tacoma)

Applicant Name: Sound Transit

Organization: Regional Transit Agency

Address: Sounder Commuter Rail Department
401 South Jackson Street
Seattle, WA 98104

Contacts:
Melissa Parales Flores, Project Coordinator, Sounder Commuter Rail
Monica Overby, Grants Administrator, Grants Division

Office Phone: 206.689.4968 – Melissa Parales Flores
206.689.4979 – Monica Overby

E-mail: Floresm@soundtransit.org
Overbym@soundtransit.org

Cell Phone: N/A

Fax Number: 206.398.5216

Type of Application: Miscellaneous
South 58th Street (Closure) – 085393V
Sound Transit Commuter Rail

Please list all of the other companies (e.g., railroad companies) organizations, or state or local agencies that may be involved in implementing this proposal and the name, address and phone number of each.

Sound Transit
401 So. Jackson Street
Seattle, WA 98104
Melissa Parales Flores
206.689.4968

City of Tacoma
Public Works Department
747 Market Street
Tacoma, WA 98402
253.591.5000

Note: Requests for public grade crossing safety projects will be continue to be processed through the Commission's regular petition process.

Project Information – Please attach additional information if needed.

- 1) *Provide a detailed summary of the hazard being addressed, including any accident/incident information or other supporting data. If filing this application electronically, photographs, drawings, or other optional materials that are not in electronic format may be sent to the mailing address specified in the “instructions” section and should be clearly identified as an attachment to your application:*

Please see attached photographs, drawings and other related materials of the crossing.

South 58th Street is an east-west roadway that provides access from South Durango Street to Fife Street (southwest of the Tacoma Mall shopping center). South 58th Street is a two-lane roadway with no sidewalks between Washington Street and Adams Street. Its intersection with Washington Street is an all-way-stop-controlled intersection. The at-grade crossing between Washington and Adams Streets is signed with cross-bucks but has no signals or gates. Located north of this grade crossing is a mainline and siding track where freight trains currently operate to and from the Excel Feed plant. BNSF will continue to operate freight service to their customers along Sound Transit’s Tacoma-to-Lakewood rail corridor.

The closure of the South 58th Street grade crossing would eliminate the potential of vehicle-train and pedestrian accidents. The closure would reduce the number of at-grade crossings along the existing rail corridor formerly owned by Burlington Northern and Santa Fe Railway. The track corridor currently runs two to three freight trains a week to and from local businesses in the area.

- 2) *Provide a detailed description of your proposed project and explain how its implementation will eliminate or mitigate the hazard. If available, please attach any drawings or construction plans for your proposed project (see section 1 if filing electronically):*

Sound Transit will run Sounder commuter rail service between Tacoma and Lakewood operating on the former Burlington Northern and Santa Fe Railway single mainline track. Sounder will construct a South Tacoma Commuter Rail Station between South 56th Street and South 60th Street grade crossings. The South 58th Street grade crossing will be closed to build the 600-ft station platform. This application is to request funding for the work needed to close South 58th Street.

Sounder has completed the preliminary engineering and design required for the closure of the South 58th Street grade crossing. Sounder will construct the station platform on the west-side of the railroad tracks. Closing the crossing is required to mitigate the possibility of passengers crossing the mainline tracks. The closure would also eliminate the potential of vehicle-train and pedestrian accidents. The closure would reduce the number of at-grade crossings along the existing rail corridor.

The traffic and pedestrian activity that will be generated by the commuter rail station is not expected to result in any adverse safety conditions. Essentially the proposed improvements would likely improve safety conditions at the crossing and around the station.

Attached is a copy of the site drawing of the South Tacoma Station that illustrates the location of the station platform along the South 58th Street grade crossing.

3) *Provide cost estimates, including those related to long-term maintenance:*

Sound Transit anticipates the following cost estimates to close the crossing:

- \$10,000 – Design
- \$30,000 – Clear site, construct barriers, install signage and fencing
- \$40,000 – Approximate Total

4) *Estimated timeline of project, if approved:*

- 2004 – Begin Final Design
- 2005 – Close South 58th Street grade crossing
- 2006 – Start station construction
- 2007 – Complete station construction

5) *If known, provide a description of how the project's success would be measured:*

Sound Transit's objective is to provide a safe and secure transportation system for its customers. Sound Transit works closely with partnering agencies in identifying safety and security issues including coordination with local police departments, Burlington Northern Santa Fe, and the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA). Sound Transit also complies with all applicable railroad laws and regulations, and ensures that our projects continue to provide reliable and safe transportation services for the citizens of this region. The FRA will review and approve the testing of the Tacoma-to-Lakewood rail corridor's track and signals upgrade project after construction is complete.

By eliminating the presence of this railroad crossing can be taken as an indicator of success. The closure of the South 58th Street grade crossing would be one of the significant milestones on the South Tacoma Station project schedule.

Additionally, Sound Transit has developed extensive customer service and community outreach programs designed to inform and gather feedback from customers and the general public. Implementing these programs gives Sound Transit the ability to monitor and measure the success of our projects and services.

6) *Other comments:*

In 1996, voters in Central Puget Sound agreed to increase their taxes to pay for a transportation system plan that would enable people to move easily from one end of the region to another. The plan approved by voters is called *Sound Move* and it is the blueprint for Sound Transit's array of services. Sound Transit is a regional public transit agency delivering a mix of light rail and commuter rail, regional express bus routes and new transit facilities to the citizens of urban King,

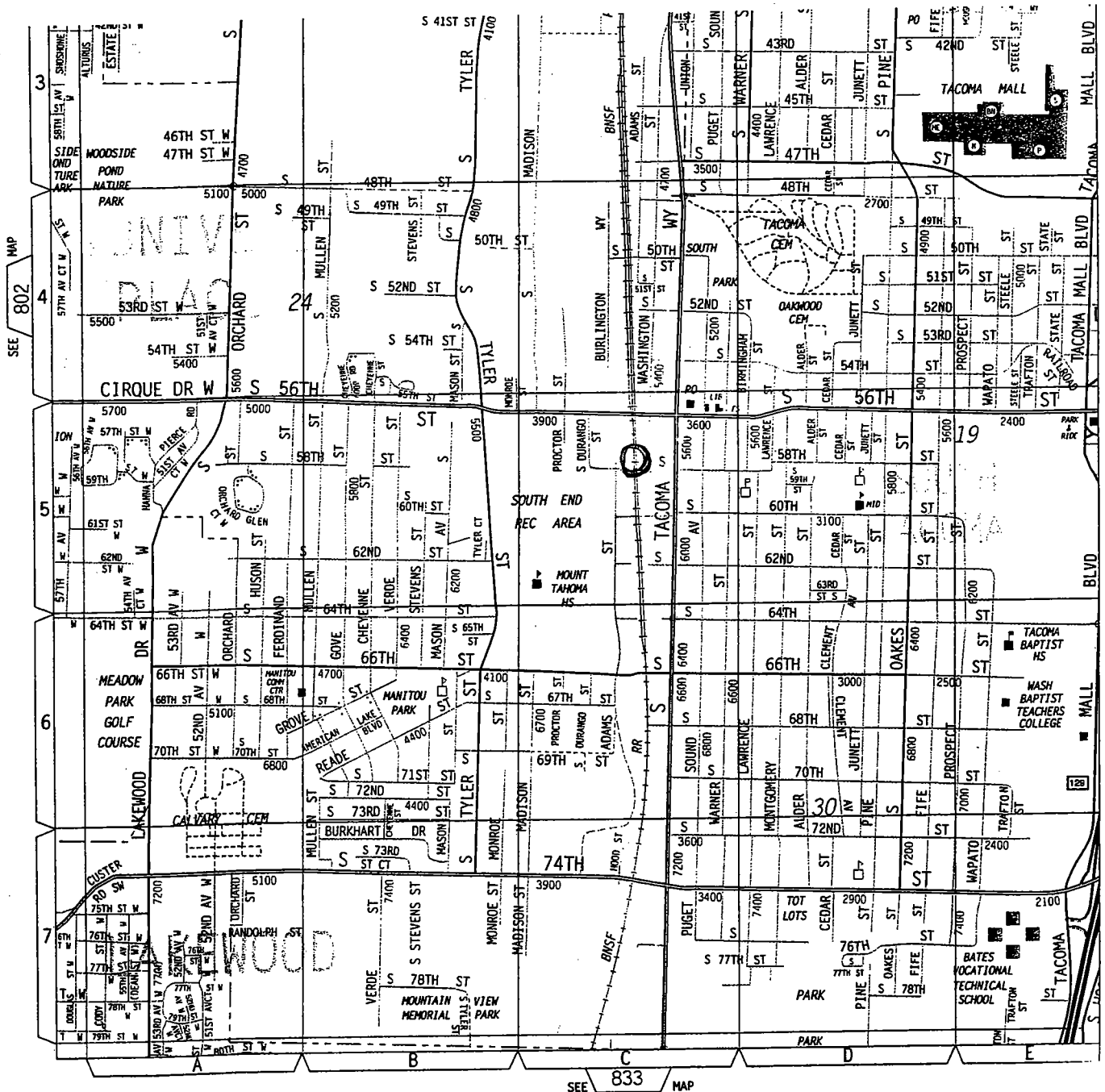
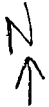
Pierce and Snohomish counties. Sound Transit's Sounder Commuter Rail provides a fast, dependable and easy-to-use commuter option linking major destinations in the region. Sounder provides two-way, rush-hour passenger train service using existing freight railroad tracks between Everett and Tacoma. Sounder is now currently serving Tacoma, Puyallup, Sumner, Auburn, Kent, Tukwila, Seattle, Edmonds and Everett. Future service is planned for Lakewood and Mukilteo.

The Sounder Tacoma-to-Seattle Commuter Rail segment is a 40-mile long BNSF railroad corridor and includes seven stations – King Street (Seattle), Tukwila, Kent, Auburn, Sumner, Puyallup, and Tacoma Dome. Service operations began in September 2000 with four trains (two each peak period) and served over 50,000 riders in 2001. In September 2002, service increased from four to six trains daily. There are currently over 3,000 passengers each day that use this service. Sound Transit also offers special event service to Sunday Mariners and Seahawks games. This service is extremely popular with ridership at standing room only.

The Sounder Lakewood-to-Tacoma Commuter Rail segment will include a one-mile long new rail segment connecting the Tacoma Rail line at Freighthouse Square with the BNSF Lakeview branch line. This segment will also include nearly 7 miles of improvements to the BNSF Lakeview branch to reach the South Tacoma and Lakewood Stations.

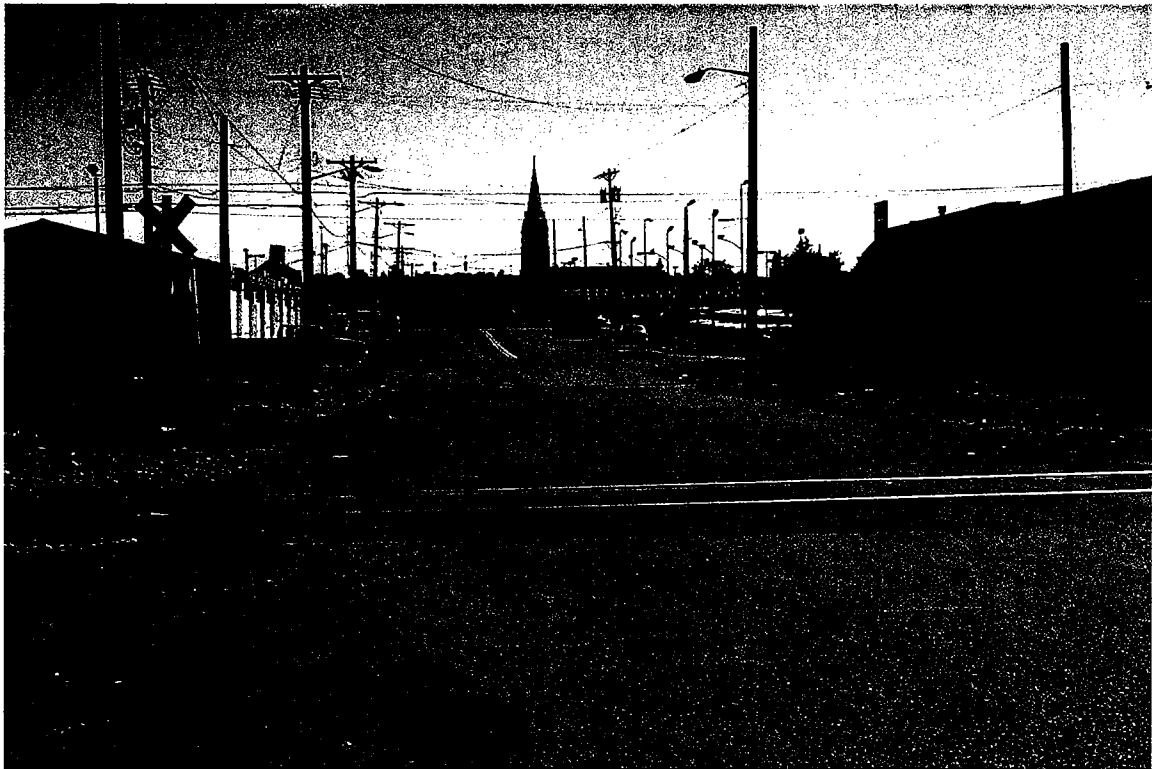
These track and signal improvements are required to operate the commuter rail service and will provide the speed and reliability necessary to offer attractive passenger service and build ridership in the corridor. These improvements will also improve the capacity, reliability and dependability of commuter rail passenger service and freight train traffic.

South 58th Street Closure (Tacoma)



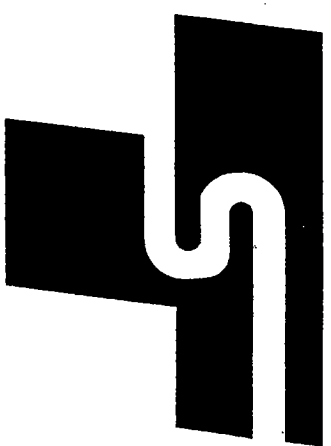


South 58th Street – 085393V
South Transit Commuter Rail
(former BNSF mainline track)





South 58th Street
Grade Crossing Closure



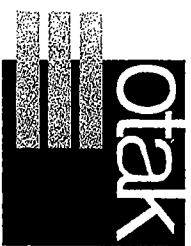
**CENTRAL PUGET SOUND
REGIONAL TRANSIT AUTHORITY**

SOUND TRANSIT

**SOUND TRANSIT
COMMUTER RAIL SYSTEM
SOUTH TACOMA STATION**

**FEBRUARY 10, 2002³
30% PRELIMINARY ENGINEERING SUBMITTAL**

PREPARED FOR:
CENTRAL PUGET SOUND REGIONAL TRANSIT AUTHORITY
PREPARED BY:

 117 south main street suite 400
seattle, washington 98104-2540
phone: (206) 224-7221
fax: (206) 224-9230

OTAK, INC.

Southern

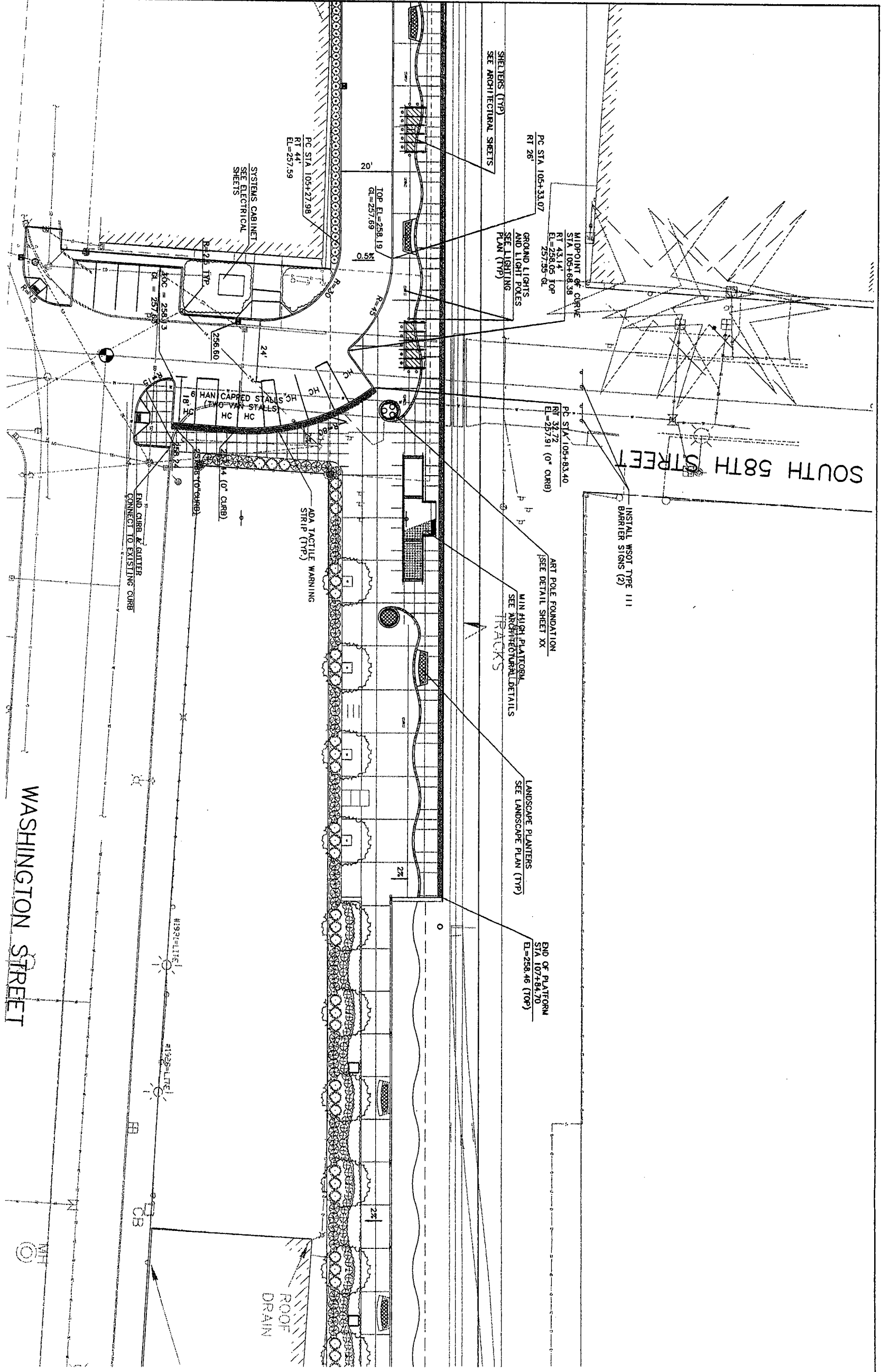
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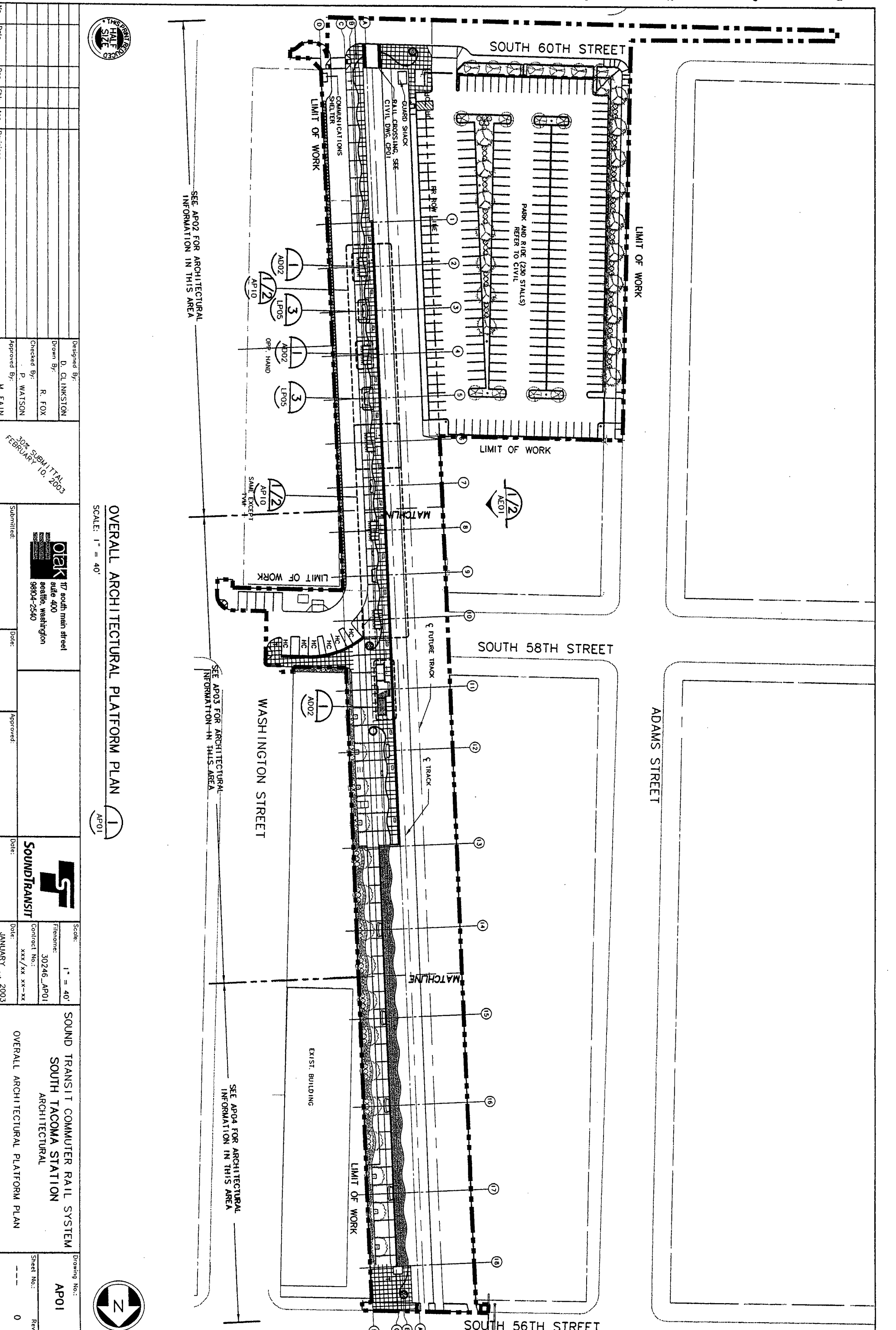


PLATFORM GRADING PLAN

SCALE: 1" = 20'



THE GREAT REDUCED HALF SIZE		No. _____ Date _____	
Designed By: J. SLEAVIN		Drawn By: V. SZYPERSKI	
Checked By: P. WATSON		Approved By: M. FAIN	
30% SUBMITTAL FEBRUARY 10, 2003			
117 south main street suite 400 seattle, washington 98104-2540		Submitted: _____ Date: _____	
SOUND TRANSIT		Approved: _____ Date: _____	
Scale: 1" = 20'		Contract No.: 30246_CP03	
SOUND TRANSIT COMPUTER RAIL SYSTEM SOUTH TACOMA STATION CIVIL		Date: JANUARY 2003	
Drawing No.: CP03		Sheet No.: _____ Rev.: 0	



No.	Date	Desn.	Chk.	App.	Revisions

30% SUBMITTAL
FEBRUARY 10, 2003

Designed By: D. CLINKSTON
 Drawn By: R. FOX
 Checked By: P. WATSON
 Approved By: M. FAIN

Submitted: _____ Date: _____
 Approved: _____ Date: _____

Scale: 1" = 40'
 Filename: 30246_AP01
 Contract No.: xxx/xx xx-xx
 Date: JANUARY 2003

SOUND TRANSIT COMMUTER RAIL SYSTEM
 SOUTH TACOMA STATION
 ARCHITECTURAL
 OVERALL ARCHITECTURAL PLATFORM PLAN

Drawing No.: AP01
 Sheet No.: _____
 Rev.: 0

OVERALL ARCHITECTURAL PLATFORM PLAN
 (1) AP01



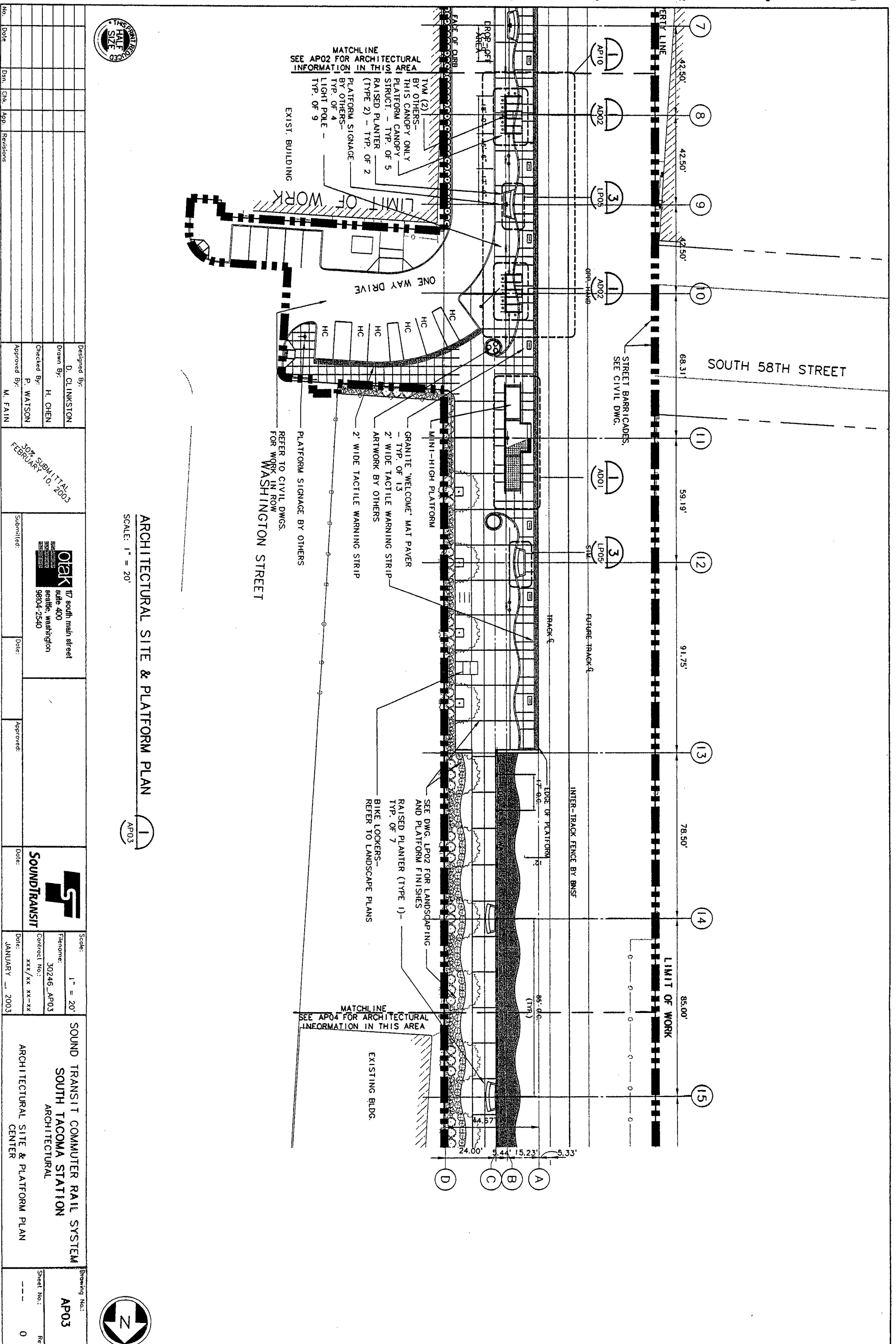
SEE AP02 FOR ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION IN THIS AREA

SEE AP03 FOR ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION IN THIS AREA

SEE AP04 FOR ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION IN THIS AREA

SCALE: 1" = 40'

(1) AP01



ARCHITECTURAL SITE & PLATFORM PLAN
 SCALE: 1" = 20'
 AP03

No.	Date	Desn.	Chk.	App.	Revisions
Designed By: D. CLINKSTON Drawn By: H. CHEN Checked By: P. WATSON Approved By: M. FAINI					
30% SUBMITTAL FEBRUARY 10, 2003					
Submitted: OTAK 17 south main street suite 400 seattle, washington 98104-2540			Date: Approved:		
Date: Approved:			Date: Approved:		
Scale: 1" = 20' Filename: 30246_AP03 Contract No.: xxx/xx xx-xx Date: JANUARY - 2003					
SOUND TRANSIT SOUND TRANSIT COMMUTER RAIL SYSTEM SOUTH TACOMA STATION ARCHITECTURAL ARCHITECTURAL SITE & PLATFORM PLAN					
Drawing No.: AP03					Rev.: 0





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ARCHITECTURAL SITE & PLATFORM PLAN
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