

SOUND TRANSIT BOARD MEETING
Summary Minutes
April 9, 2009

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 1:04 p.m. by Chair Greg Nickels, in the Ruth Fisher Boardroom, 401 South Jackson Street, Seattle, Washington.

Roll Call

Chair

(P) *Greg Nickels, City of Seattle Mayor*

Vice Chairs

(A) *Aaron Reardon, Snohomish County Executive*

(P) *Claudia Thomas, Lakewood Councilmember*

(A) *Julie Anderson, Tacoma Deputy Mayor*

(P) *Mary-Alyce Burleigh, Kirkland Councilmember*

(P) *Fred Butler, Issaquah Deputy Council President*

(P) *Richard Conlin, Seattle Council President*

(P) *Dow Constantine, King County Council Chair*

(P) *David Enslow, City of Sumner Mayor*

(P) *Paula Hammond, WSDOT Secretary*

(P) *John Marchione, City of Redmond Mayor*

(P) *Joe Marine, City of Mukilteo Mayor*

(A) *Pat McCarthy, Pierce County Executive*

(A) *Julia Patterson, King County Councilmember*

(P) *Larry Phillips, King County Councilmember*

(P) *Paul Roberts, Everett Councilmember*

(A) *Ron Sims, King County Executive*

(A) *Peter von Reichbauer, King County Councilmember*

Ms. Marcia Walker, Board Administrator announced that a quorum of the Board was present at roll call.

Report of the Chair

Chair Nickels announced that action on the budget amendment would be taken when a supermajority of the Board was present.

He thanked the Boardmembers, members of Citizen Oversight Panel and public who attended the Board retreat the prior week. The Board reviewed the impact of the current economic situation as well as the Board's organization. Members are interested in starting Board meetings later, so future meetings will begin at 1:30. Board and Committee structure and procedures will be reviewed by the Executive Committee for recommendations to the Board. A retreat report is currently being prepared.

He also noted that Link light rail is within 100 days of opening.

Chief Executive Officer's Report

Joni Earl gave an update on the State Legislature; HB 1225 on fuel tax exemption has cleared the Senate and will go to the House for a concurrence vote and to the Governor for signature. The Transit Conduct and Fare Enforcement Bill is expected to be voted on this afternoon.

She reviewed the Real Property Report that was in Boardmember packets. The report includes properties owned by Sound Transit and properties that Sound Transit leases. She explained that future reports of Sound Transit's real property would be given to the Audit and Reporting Subcommittee.

Ms. Earl announced the Adopted 2009 Budget book had been published and was included in Boardmember packets.

Public Comment

(Comments on file with the Board Administrator)

Grant Degginger, Mayor of Bellevue
Claudia Balducci, Deputy Mayor of Bellevue
Jim Pearman, Mayor of Mercer Island
El Jehnke, Deputy Mayor of Mercer Island
Will Knedlik

Chair Nickels announced that the Board would hear the remaining comments on East Link following action on Resolution No. R2009-04.

Action Item

Item referred by the Finance Committee

Resolution No. R2009-04 - Amending the Adopted 2009 Budget to transfer lifetime budget authority of \$11.241 million from the Regional Fund Contingency to the Strategic Acquisition Fund to reflect final property acquisition costs consistent with Resolution Nos. R2006-14 and R2008-17 and Motion No. M2007-116.

It was moved by Boardmember Butler and seconded by Vice Chair Thomas that Resolution No. R2009-04 be approved as presented.

Chair Nickels announced that a two-thirds affirmative vote of the Board (twelve members) was necessary to pass the resolution amending the budget. He asked Ms. Walker to conduct a roll call vote.

Ayes

Nays

Mary-Alyce Burleigh	John Marchione
Fred Butler	Joe Marine
Richard Conlin	Larry Phillips
Dow Constantine	Paul Roberts
Dave Enslow	Claudia Thomas
Paula Hammond	Greg Nickels

The motion to approve Resolution No. R2009-04 carried by unanimous vote of twelve members present.

Public Comment (Continued)

(Comments on file with the Board Administrator)

Rob Odle, City of Redmond
Denise S. Kraft, MD, Eastside Family Medicine Clinic
Ali Biria
Chris Douglas, CEO of Overlake Internal Medicine and Associates
Shelley Lundquist, Friends of Enetai
Conrad Lee, Bellevue City Council
Renay Bennett, Bellecrest Neighborhood Foundation
James Stone, Belfield Residential Park
Dan Watson, Bellevue Convention Center Board of Directors Representative
Dan Lewis, Director of Corporate Services for Paccar
Loryn Weinstein, MD
Don D'Amore
Tom Woodworth, Schnitzer West
Susan Scholtz
Andrew Austin, Transportation Choices Coalition
Kevin Wallace, Bellevue Chamber
Darren Bloch
Elisabeth Anton, MD
Michael Zonczyk
Robert Scheuerman
Betsy Blackstock, Surrey Downs East Link Committee
Lynn Terpstra, Su Development

Isaac Alshihahi, Su Development
Greg Johnson, President of Wright Runstan & Co.
Colby Holley, PS Business Parks
Christine Baker
Siri Betcher
Bill Ptacek, King County Libraries
Leslie Lloyd, Bellevue Downtown Association

East Link Project Discussion: South Bellevue and Downtown Bellevue Alternatives

Chair Nickels announced that the staff presentation on East Link would be held to the next meeting and would be presented before public comment.

Environmental Impact Statement Process

Chair Nickels asked Desmond Brown, Executive Director General Counsel, to review the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) process from a legal perspective. Mr. Brown explained that the Board cannot legally make a final East Link alignment decision until the Final EIS (FEIS) is completed and reviewed by the Board in 2010. So far, the Draft EIS (DEIS) has been completed. It was published in December 2008 and considers 19 alignments. The Board will review the information in the DEIS and information received during public comment in order to select a locally preferred alternative. The Federal Transit Administration requires that a locally preferred alternative route be selected at this point in the environmental process in order to be eligible to receive federal funding. Mr. Brown emphasized that the locally preferred alternative selected by the Board is not the final decision on the alignment. The environmental process will continue on all 19 alignments for the next year until the completion of the FEIS. Mr. Brown noted that the Board may elect to have some engineering work done on the route selected as the locally preferred alternative. Any of the 19 alignments or any variation of them can be selected as the final alignment.

Chair Nickels noted that some elements were changed in the Initial Segment, University Link and Northgate Extension projects between the time the preferred alternative was selected and the final alignment was decided.

Boardmember Conlin asked which suggestions from jurisdictions and groups will be included in the FEIS. Mr. Brown responded that comments received during the public comment period on the DEIS would be responded to in writing in the FEIS by federal requirement.

James Irish, Environmental Manager for Link light rail noted that modifications that are outside the options already contained in the DEIS would be reviewed and those found to be reasonable will be looked at and advanced in design and reviewed for environmental impacts. In order to determine if suggested modifications and alternatives are reasonable, additional analysis needs to take place.

Boardmember Conlin asked if additional analysis would delay the completion of the FEIS. Mr. Irish explained that if a supplemental EIS is done, on a Bellevue hybrid option for example, another public comment period would be done on the supplemental EIS; the FEIS would cover both the DEIS and any supplemental EIS documents.

Boardmember Butler asked if the Board would know which of the modifications would be considered for additional study when a decision is made on the preferred alternative. Mr. Irish noted that the Board could give direction to study modifications in the Board action to select the preferred alternative.

Mr. Brown clarified that if a new alternative has been suggested that is outside the range of options in the DEIS, it will be reviewed to see if it is feasible, if it is not feasible, a supplemental EIS does not need to be conducted.

Citizen Oversight Panel Capital Procurement Task Force Report

Chris Elwell, member of the Sound Transit Citizen Oversight Panel and chair of the Capital Procurement Process Task Force presented the Task Force findings. Mr. Elwell reported that COP identified issues with Sound Transit's procurement process at its retreat and created the Task Force to look into them. The Task Force reviewed the procurement process and was pleased to learn of changes to the process and hope that these improvements will continue to improve bids, contractor oversight and contractor relationships. Mr. Elwell thanked members of the Task Force for their work.

Consent Agenda

Chair Nickels announced that the consent agenda would be held to the next Board meeting.

Executive Session

None.

Other Business

None.

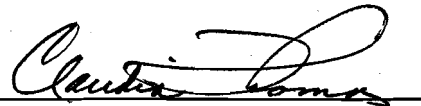
Next Meeting

Chair Nickels noted that the next meeting and all future Board meetings would begin at 1:30 pm.

Thursday, April 23, 2009
1:30 to 4:00 p.m.
Ruth Fisher Boardroom

Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 4:09 p.m.



Claudia Thomas
Board Vice Chair

ATTEST:



Marcia Walker
Board Administrator