



Summary Minutes

Executive Committee Meeting May 7, 2020

Call to order

The meeting was called to order at 10:34 a.m. by Committee Chair Kent Keel virtually on WebEx.

Due to the Governor’s Stay Home – Stay Healthy Order issued on March 23, 2020, public viewing of the meeting was only available via WebEx. The meeting was streamed on

<https://soundtransit.webex.com/soundtransit/onstage/g.php?MTID=ed2f4a9ccfaf3e7ad6c5fa0e0a21b29c2>

Roll call of members

Chair	Vice Chair
(P) Kent Keel, University Place Councilmember	(P) Paul Roberts, Everett Councilmember (A) Dow Constantine, King County Executive

Board Members	
(P) Claudia Balducci, King County Councilmember (A) Bruce Dammeier, Pierce County Executive	(A) Jenny Durkan, Seattle Mayor (P) Roger Millar, WSDOT Secretary (P) Dave Somers, Snohomish County Executive (A) Victoria Woodards, Tacoma Mayor

Katie Flores, Board Administrator, announced that a quorum of the Committee was present at roll call.

Report of the Chair

Chair Keel announced that the CEO Monthly Contract Report was available for review.

CEO Report

CEO Peter Rogoff gave the CEO Report.

Program Realignment – Mr. Rogoff acknowledged that Sound Transit is no different than any of the other municipalities in the region in that it depends on sales tax revenues which were rapidly plummeting. A detailed report would follow later in the meeting to discuss how the Board would need to begin considerations for potential program realignments due to decreased revenue projections.

Joint Letter to Congressional Leadership – Mr. Rogoff informed the committee that he signed a joint letter alongside transit agencies across the country sent to Congressional leaders advocating for increased federal support of public transit. He advised that although Sound was due to receive around

\$166 million from the CARES Act, it was estimated that the agency could lose \$628.6 million by the end of 2021.

Construction Update – Mr. Rogoff announced that Sound Transit staff had been working closely with contractors to ramp up construction after more than 80 percent of the agency’s construction had been paused to ensure worker safety. Rigorous safety protocols were in place for all reopening construction.

Service Reductions – While ridership continued to be down between 85 and 90 percent, Sound Transit continued to operate essential service. Service was reduced on all modes except Tacoma Link, driven primarily by lack of operator availability at partner agencies. Link Light Rail was running trains every 30 minutes with four-car trains. Sounder South service was reduced to seven of the 13 round trips each weekday, and Sounder North operated two of four round trips. ST Express service was reduced as well.

Redmond Technology Center Parking Garage – Sound Transit directed the contractor working on the Redmond Technology Center parking garage to construct temporary vertical supports beneath the cracked beams which were recently discovered and to cease other work on the facility. Buses and pedestrians were also located away from the bus loop on the first floor of the structure while further studies were conducted. The garage is part of East Link’s design-build contract awarded to Kiewit-Hoffman, and under that framework, they are responsible for all design and construction of the facility while meeting Sound Transit’s requirements. Assurances from the contractor indicate that they understand fully the nature of the problem and are working to rectify it.

Public comment

Chair Keel announced that due to the Governor’s stay home stay healthy order, public comment would only be accepted via email to emailtheboard@soundtransit.org. The following people submitted email public comments prior to the meeting:

Joe Kunzler

Business items

Items for Committee final action

March 5, 2020, Executive Committee meeting minutes

It was moved by Vice-Chair Roberts, seconded by Boardmember Somers that the minutes of the March 5, 2020 Executive Committee meeting be approved as presented. Chair Keel called for a roll call vote:

Ayes

Claudia Balducci
Roger Millar
Paul Roberts
Dave Somers
Kent Keel

Nays

It was carried by unanimous vote of the five present Boardmembers that minutes of the March 5, 2020 Executive Committee meeting were approved as presented.

Reports to the Board

Program Realignment

Don Billen, Executive Director of Planning, Environment, and Project Development began the presentation. He outlined the process of the last program realignment in 2010. At that time, the Board of Directors determined which projects were higher priorities and lower priorities based upon five categories. He reviewed the realignment status per corridor at the time of determination in 2010 and then the project status per corridor in 2016 after some years of recovery. At that point, many of the projects reviewed in 2010 were able to proceed. ST3 planning had begun as well, so some projects which were postponed were incorporated into the program. He reminded the committee of the three levels of evaluation used in the development of ST2 and ST3, and the 2010 realignment. They were program affordability, project core principles and other project considerations such as operational needs, project readiness, and more.

Tracy Butler, Chief Financial Officer, reviewed the major affordability considerations, each of which had a significant impact on the programs affordability. She discussed the three measures driving the agency's borrowing capacity. Each constrain how much the agency could borrow. She shared a projection focusing on one of the three measures, legal capacity capped at 1.5 percent of Sound Transit's assessed property value. The projection expressed the adverse impacts of a moderate recession on the agency's borrowing capacity. She also reviewed a scenario in which the program was unaffordable. In that particular scenario, lost revenues and decreased borrowing capacity would make the program unaffordable by 2030. Realignment would be required to take place ahead of 2030 in order to avoid unaffordability. Delaying projects could be an effective strategy to extend the program's affordability.

Matt Shelden, Deputy Director of Planning and Innovation, reviewed the core priorities considered in the development of the ST3 program and which should be considered in the realignment discussions to come. He explained that core principles for each project considered from realignment should be drawn from the ST3 core priorities. He identified other considerations to make at a project level and explained that the agency was dedicated to the design considerations of safety, multimodal access, transit system integration, and transit supportive land use and transit oriented development opportunities which were built into all projects during the ST3 development process.

Mr. Billen reviewed current projects which were already underway by corridor and those which had not started in full. He highlighted the several projects on hold until realignment decisions were made by the Board. Finally, he explained the tools available to the Board for managing a realignment like extending project timelines, modifying project scope, securing new grant funding or funding partners, suspending or deleting projects, and requesting further tax increases from the legislature and voters.

Chair Keel detailed the upcoming discussion timeline to the Board, explaining that a Board workshop would take place in June. The June Executive Committee would consider the criteria for realignment decisions and recommend them to the full Board. In July, with support from staff and additional financial information, the Board would begin reviewing projects within the bounds of the established criteria. He affirmed that he would take steps to ensure transparency with partner jurisdictions.

Chief Executive Officer Rogoff stated that the most sizable challenge was the lack of information about the true depth of the coming recession and the decision making that would need to take place in spite of that. He reiterated the project categories referenced earlier in the presentation which were developed under similar circumstances in 2010, and that staff would likely suggest a similar approach.

Vice Chair Roberts, requested strategies to working with state and federal partners. Mr. Rogoff advised that assistance from the federal level could be limited due to the funds provided in the CARES Act. Federal legislators may believe that transit was taken care of with the assistance despite continued needs.

Vice Chair Roberts also requested an update on the impacts COVID 19 had on operations. Mr. Rogoff advised that gradual lifting of the stay home orders and increased ridership could stress the agency's ability to facilitate social distancing requirements.

Boardmember Balducci requested that future presentations include information about policies established in the ST3 plan or other Board actions that are applicable to the realignment process.

Parking and Joint Development Briefing

Alex Krieg, Deputy Director of Planning and Integration, provided the report. He explained that the agency's parking and joint development program was expected to deliver more than 9,500 parking stalls, \$500 million in investments, and increase Sound Transit parking stalls by 96 percent between 2020 and 2025. He outlined the ST3 direction regarding parking and detailed the goals of the parking program and the starting points for parking projects.

Sloan Dawson, Land Use Planning Manager, provided examples of the various implementation approaches for parking delivery in development. He reviewed the status quo parking structures and reported on research regarding convertible parking garages.

Executive session

None.

Other business

None.

Next meeting

Thursday, June 4, 2020
10:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.
Ruth Fisher Boardroom

Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 12:00 p.m.

Kent Keel
Executive Committee Chair

ATTEST:

Kathryn Flores
Board Administrator

APPROVED on _____. AM