



Summary Minutes

Executive Committee Meeting May 2, 2024

Call to order

The meeting was called to order at 10:30 a.m. by Committee Vice Chair Dave Somers and was available for viewing in person and online.

The meeting was recorded and can be found at <https://www.soundtransit.org/get-to-know-us/board-directors/livestream-video>.

Roll call of members

Chair	Vice Chair
(P) Dow Constantine, King County Executive	(P) Dave Somers, Snohomish County Executive

Board Members	
(P) Nancy Backus, Auburn Mayor	(P) Cassie Franklin, Everett Mayor
(A) Claudia Balducci, King County Councilmember	(P) Bruce Harrell, Seattle Mayor
(P) Bruce Dammeier, Pierce County Executive	(P) Kim Roscoe, Fife Mayor
	(P) Roger Millar, WSDOT Secretary

Katie Flores, Board Administrator, announced that a quorum of the Committee was present at roll call. Board member Birney attended as a non-voting member.

Report of the Chair

None.

CEO Report

Goran Sparrman, Interim CEO, provided the CEO report.

2 Line Opening

The 2 Line opened on April 27, 2024 beginning Link service on the Eastside of Lake Washington with 8 stations between South Bellevue and Redmond Technology Stations. Sound Transit partnered with more than 100 local organizations to activate the eight new stations at the opening event. Community members filled most trains to standing-room-only for much of the day with 35,000 boardings. Interim CEO Sparrman was joined by Governor Inslee, U.S. Senators Patty Murray and Maria Cantwell, whom all spoke at the ribbon cutting ceremony, along with Chair Constantine, Board member Birney, and Board member Balducci.

In addition to Sound Transit event and outreach staff who orchestrated the day’s programming, more than 140 volunteer staff ambassadors worked opening day, roughly 530 ambassador hours, and over

2,500 ORCA cards were distributed on opening day.

Upcoming Service Disruptions

The agency continued to prepare for a complex series of service disruptions beginning May 12, 2024 through June 23, 2024. The primary focus of the disruption was Angle Lake Station, where the Federal Way project would tie in overhead train power systems during this period. The agency intended to piggyback the disruption to also repair tile at Columbia Station on June 1 and 2, 2024. From June 21 to 23, 2024 both Angle Lake Station and the downtown transit tunnel would be closed as both Federal Way and the 2 Line projects continued efforts to tie into the existing system prior to Lynnwood Link opening to service. More details and progress would be reported at the June 2024 Rider Experience and Operations Committee meeting.

Welcoming Terri Mestas

On April 29, 2024, Terri Mestas joined Sound Transit as the new DCEO for Megaproject Delivery. She came from Southern California where she served as the Chief Development Officer for Los Angeles World Airports, managing their \$30 billion capital program to remake Los Angeles International Airport for the next century.

Public comment

Vice Chair Somers announced that public comment would be accepted via email to meetingcomments@soundtransit.org and would also be accepted in-person and virtually.

The following people provided written public comment:

Diane Ramsey
Marilyn Kennell

There were no in-person or virtual public comments received.

Business items

Items for Final Committee Action

March 7, 2024, Executive Committee meeting minutes

It was moved by Board member Backus, seconded by Board member Roscoe and carried by the unanimous vote of all Board members present that the minutes of the March 7, 2024 Executive Committee meeting be approved.

Items for recommendation to the Board

Resolution No. R2024-08: Adopted an updated Fare Policy and supersedes Resolution No. R2014-27 and Resolution No. R2010-10.

Alex Krieg, Director of Access, Integration and Station Area Planning, provided the presentation.

Resolution No. R2024-08 was moved by Board member Backus, seconded by Board member Roscoe.

Board member Dammeier asked if staff believed the new fare enforcement approach was consistent with the farebox recovery strategy. Mr. Krieg replied the fare compliance was a separate policy but believed it to be harmonious. He added that staff should continue to be attentive on what was impacting the ability to achieve fare revenue targets.

Board member Dammeier commented that this downward adjustment was not ideal. He appreciated that the Rider Experience and Operations Committee would review this on a routine basis and that the Board would review it every 4 years.

Vice Chair Somers called for a roll call vote.

Ayes

Nancy Backus
Dow Constantine
Bruce Dammeier
Cassie Franklin

Nays

Bruce Harrell
Roger Millar
Kim Roscoe
Dave Somers

It was carried by the unanimous vote of eight committee members present that Resolution No. R2024-08 be forwarded to the Board with a do-pass recommendation.

Resolution No. R2024-11: Adopted a System Expansion Project Scope and Betterments Policy and superseding Resolution No. R2009-24 and Motions Nos. M2002-48 and M2002-22.

Alex Krieg, Director of Access, Integration and Station Area Planning, provided the presentation.

Board member Backus commented on her disapproval of the phrase “must learn to fight faster” which was mentioned during slide 9 of staff presentation. She noted this was talking about a partnership and understood the needs for differing opinions but the phrase wasn’t focused on collaboration. She expressed that each jurisdiction was working towards achieving what voters have asked and did not want to paint the picture of being “bullies”. Interim CEO Sparrman responded in agreement with Board member Backus and noted the delicate balance to have Sound Transit meet its agency objectives within budgetary reason as well as meet partner agency’s objectives.

Board member Harrell voiced support towards the Resolution and stated he may bring forth a possible amendment.

Board member Dammeier referenced slide 11 and showed interest for the point of creating a dashboard to capture accurate betterment project data going forward and provide transparency. He explained the importance of having consistent application of the policy, to practice equality across all jurisdictions, and calibrating jurisdictions expectations.

Board member Roscoe added to Board member Dammeier’s comment of the dashboard being helpful. She added that the policy should be clear of what would be considered a betterment in this new policy and what wasn’t considered as such in the past. She added there needed to be transparency with jurisdictions and for the agency to be clear on changes occurring in the policy, in the implementation of subarea equity, and betterments versus what was voter approved. She noted she would meet with City of Fife staff and did not anticipate submitting amendments at this time but would withhold until she met with them.

Board member Millar asked staff if the policy applied to State and Federal agencies. Mr. Krieg replied with a partial approval. He noted NEPA as a process that would inform the development of scope and identify mitigations needed to implement in the project. In regards to this policy, Sound Transit had a strong partnership with WSDOT and could be less about betterments and more about out of scope work and how Sound Transit projects interacted with WSDOT projects or in WSDOT right of ways.

Board member Millar shared concerned about the staff’s response. He noted WSDOT has a safety oversight responsibility per federal law that he did not think should be subjected to a betterments policy. He also noted WSDOT having a lessor/lessee relationship that needed to address state requirements and didn’t see that as a discussion of betterments about what Sound Transit’s operating and maintenance responsibilities would be as a lessee of State property. Moises Gutierrez, Chief System Quality Officer, shared that it would be based on the relationship such as the cited State safety oversight function within WSDOT and noted that was a different relationship and was an oversight relationship, to Board member Millar’s point, it hinged on clarifying that relationship. Board member Millar voiced the landlord tenant relationship was his concern because Sound Transit was moving from an agency that had owned and operated a modest amount of right of way to moving towards owning a substantial acreage that had ongoing maintenance and operational responsibilities. He did not believe Sound

Transit staff understood those maintenance and operational responsibilities including graffiti, litter, homelessness, vandalism, etc. Lastly, he shared having those negotiations and contractual relationships considered in a betterments policy was inappropriate.

Board member Franklin shared appreciation towards Board member Backus' emphasis on the importance of collaboration rather than the fight and also supported consistent application. She spoke to Everett Extension being at the end of the line and that there were aspects of this betterment policy that could have aspects negatively impact Everett. She emphasized the importance in equal application across all sizes of jurisdictions. She did not anticipate any amendments at this time.

Resolution No. R2024-11 was moved by Board member Roscoe, seconded by Board member Backus.

Vice Chair Somers added there was future work to make sure the agency was clarifying the difference between betterments and project mitigation.

Board member Millar voiced he would vote to move this forward to the full Board but couldn't support the policy at this time unless the relationship between Sound Transit and federal agencies were addressed; possibly through an exemption of those agencies from this policy. There were other relationships that should not be subject to a debate about whether something was a betterment or not.

Mr. Gutierrez appreciated the committee's feedback and input and committed staff to work on Board member Millar's requests.

Vice Chair Somers called for a roll call vote.

Ayes

Nancy Backus
Dow Constantine
Bruce Dammeier
Cassie Franklin

Nays

Bruce Harrell
Roger Millar
Kim Roscoe
Dave Somers

It was carried by the unanimous vote of eight committee members present that Resolution No. R2024-11 be forwarded to the Board with a do-pass recommendation.

Resolution No. R2024-12: Approved the chief executive officer's declaration that the Marymoor Village Transit Oriented Development site is surplus upon completion of the Downtown Redmond Link Extension.

Mara D'Angelo, Deputy Director of Transit Oriented Development, and Rennie Elliott, Senior Project Manager for Transit Oriented Development, provided the presentation.

Board member Dammeier asked if staff had a rough order of magnitude of value of property. Ms. Elliott committed to returning with an actual figure. She noted the team had conducted appraisals when the property was acquired in 2021 and an extrapolated value could be provided once they take off the fire access road and public right of way.

Resolution No. R2024-12 was moved by Board member Roscoe, seconded by Board member Backus.

Vice Chair Somers called for a roll call vote.

Ayes

Nancy Backus
Bruce Dammeier
Cassie Franklin
Bruce Harrell

Nays

Roger Millar
Kim Roscoe
Dave Somers

It was carried by the unanimous vote of seven committee members present that Resolution No. R2024-12 be forwarded to the Board with a do-pass recommendation.

Motion No. M2024-21: Authorized the chief executive officer to contribute \$20 million to a revolving loan fund held by the Washington State Housing Finance Commission to support the development of affordable housing opportunities related to equitable transit-oriented development within the boundaries of the regional transit authority.

Mara D'Angelo, Deputy Director of Transit Oriented Development, Thatcher Imboden, Director of Community Development Office, and Rennie Elliott, Senior Project Manager for Transit Oriented Development, provided the presentation.

Board member Dammeier asked if staff mentioned there were four \$5 million payments made associated with the \$20 million statutory requirement. Staff replied that state statute required Sound Transit to contribute \$4 million a year for 5 years and Sound Transit had been contributing that amount to a restricted account at Sound Transit and was fully accrued and ready to be deployed. Board member Dammeier asked if that meant the money had been set aside and not yet transmitted and this action was to authorize the transmittal. Staff confirmed.

Motion No. M2024-21 was moved by Board member Roscoe, seconded by Board member Franklin.

Board member Dammeier shared hesitations with this action as he reflected on the high expenses the agency was currently experiencing. He would support it while remaining mindful of the larger financial picture.

Vice Chair Somers called for a roll call vote.

Ayes

Nancy Backus
Dow Constantine
Bruce Dammeier
Cassie Franklin

Nays

Bruce Harrell
Roger Millar
Kim Roscoe
Dave Somers

It was carried by the unanimous vote of eight committee members present that Motion No. M2024-21 be forwarded to the Board with a do-pass recommendation.

Reports to the Committee

Status of implementing the Technical Advisory Group recommendations

Moises Gutierrez, Chief System Quality Officer, provided the presentation focusing on recommendations 1 and 2 and would expand on the other recommendations at the May 2024 System Expansion Committee meeting. For recommendation 1, relating to trust, he noted over the course of the past 2 months, staff had developed a more systemic approach to provide agency opinions and recommendations to the Board. This work involved developing a cost and schedule impact analysis and updating the standard staff report template with clear instructions to develop information the board may need to make decisions. The agency was moving forward with this approach in the coming months and welcomed feedback as it was implemented. Additionally, Board Administration and the Government and Community Relations department collaborated to develop a draft programmatic work plan for the entire Board to have a clear and effective tool to plan work on a regional level and was in alignment with the TAG's recommendation. This also aligned with work plans on a committee level but this would span across all committees.

For recommendation 2, to hire a Deputy CEO, he noted Ms. Mestas' arrival this week. She had been tasked with a full review of the capital program structure which would be supported by the full organization and functional analysis and review being led by Interim CEO Sparrman, Chief Human Resources Officer Julie Honeywell, and the newly created CEO cabinet. Earlier in the meeting, the committee considered updating the betterment control policy and this update was at the core of recommendation 5 and appreciated the engagement from the committee.

Deputy CEO Mestas shared that she reviewed the TAG action plan and had formulated ideas on how to make a response to that more robust and would have that prepared for the next Executive Committee.

Executive Committee recommendation for Pierce County Community Oversight Panel appointments

Committee Vice Chair Somers noted the Pierce County Board members reviewed applications received from people who live or work within Pierce County and would like to nominate three applicants. Board member Dammeier shared the nominations. He nominated Miriah Barry to serve on the Community Oversight Panel for Pierce County. Ms. Barry is a sales professional at Amazon and serves on the city of Milton Park Board. She commutes into Seattle from Pierce County on a daily basis, and would bring experience in community engagement activities, project planning and alignment decisions, and social justice and equity.

He also nominated Mark Lewington. Mr. Lewington is now retired but brings more than 40 years of experience as a corporate and regulator attorney. He also served in many roles in community-based organizations in the greater Tacoma area. He would bring experience community engagement activities, project planning and alignment decisions, Budget and financial plan, agency performance audits, and passenger experience.

Finally, he nominated Zak Osborne. Mr. Osborne is from Bonney Lake and is currently working toward his undergrad at the University of Washington, where he serves on a number of advocacy organizations. He is a frequent transit user and brings experience in community engagement activities, social justice and equity, and passenger experience.

Board member Roscoe reflected on a separate applicant, Linda Dorris, and spoke to her commitment to the City of Fife and listed her activities of involvement.

Committee Vice Chair Somers asked if there was any objection to the recommendation. Seeing none, he asked for staff to prepare an action for the Board to consider at the May 2024 Board meeting to appoint these nominees to the panel.

Executive Session – None

Other business – None

Next meeting

Thursday, June 6, 2024

10:30 a.m. to 12 p.m.

Ruth Fisher Boardroom and Virtually via WebEx

Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 11:43 a.m.

ATTEST:

Dow Constantine
Executive Committee Chair

Kathryn Flores
Board Administrator

APPROVED on _____, JG