

Regional Transit Authority  
May 26, 1995

Board Meeting Minutes

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 1:40 p.m. in Room 402 of the King County Courthouse, 516 Third Avenue, Seattle, Washington by Chairman Laing.

Attendance

Chair:

Bruce Laing, King County Councilmember

Vice Chair:

Dave Earling, Edmonds Councilmember

King County:

Don Davidson, Bellevue Mayor

Mary Gates, Federal Way Mayor

Cynthia Sullivan, King County Councilmember

Pierce County:

Ken Madsen, Pierce County Councilmember

Snohomish County:

Ed Hansen, Everett Mayor

Washington State Department of Transportation:

Renee Montgelas, representing Sid Morrison, Secretary

The following Board members arrived after roll call:

King County:

Martha Choe, Seattle City Councilmember

Jane Hague, King County Councilmember

Public Comment

The following individuals presented comments to the Board:

Mr. Douglas Tooley, Seattle

Mr. Mark Dublin, Ballard

Comments are on file with the Board Administrator:

## Report of the Chair

Mr. Laing reported that this week the King County Executive had announced the draft Metro six year service plan. The significance of that to the Board is that it fleshes out the local service and its interfaces with regional service. That information was not available at the time of the ballot issue, and it will fill a void.

Mr. Laing continued to say that the general assembly of the Puget Sound Regional Council (PSRC) adopted, by a 99% yes vote, the Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) for the region. This is significant to the RTA in that it now has a total transportation policy framework within which it must operate.

Mr. Laing concluded his report with the statement that he would suggest a holding a workshop for a portion of the next meeting during "Other Business."

## Executive Director Report

Mr. Matoff stated that the agenda item covering the final report on the Commuter Rail Demonstration Project would be postponed until the next Board meeting.

He then updated the Board on the state legislation approved the night before. A summary prepared by Mr. Metcalf and distributed to the Board (copy on file) outlines the basic provisions of the agreement. There are two separate appropriations of funds: 1) a reappropriation of funds appropriated but not spent in the current biennium, not to exceed \$700,000; and 2) a new appropriation of \$1.8 million from the next biennium's HCT account. These and other funds are being totaled up by the Finance Department and taken to the Finance Committee next Thursday in the context of the staffing plan and preparation of a draft budget for discussion by the Board on June 9 and adoption on June 23.

(Board member Choe arrived at this time.)

The provisos are:

- 1) A prohibition of the expenditure of funds from the Central Puget Sound Public Transportation Account to the RTA.
- 2) No HCT funds can be used to "persuade, rather than inform" voters of the system plan.
- 3) No funds may be transferred to the RTA until a detailed report of the expenditure of funds in the previous biennia are provided to the WSDOT and the House and Senate Transportation Committees.

The RTA had a grant through Metro for CPS accounts for fare integration work. It is being proposed to allow Metro to retain that part of the grant to cover part of the cost of the employees being returned to Metro while doing the fare integration work.

The legislation also contains appropriation of funds to the Legislative Transportation Committee (LTC) to allow it to contract with consultants such as the FACT group. There is another \$250,000 for additional coordination that may be assessed by the RTA if it is needed to coordinate with the alternative mobility plan.

The following statutory changes are also included in the budget bill:

- 1) Remove the statutory requirement for a voters' brochure for an election.
- 2) Prohibits the RTA from assuming state money in a plan unless it has been authorized. It requires that assumptions about federal funding be based on the current six-year authorizations.
- 3) Prohibits an election prior to February 1, 1996.

### Public Involvement Committee

Mr. Earling indicated that the Public Involvement Committee had been working on the federal DBE program goals, which would be transmitted to the Federal Transit Administration (FTA). With that action, the 45-day comment period would begin. He called attention to the public meeting scheduled for June 21. Ms. Choe will chair and would like to have as many Boardmembers as possible to attend. It will be held from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. in the Catholic Community Services Randolph Carter Center. The comment period on the DBE goals ends July 10.

He also mentioned the community-based public involvement program. Since the last Board meeting contact has taken place with the League of Women Voters and the business community and those groups wanted to be sure about the RTA's funding.

### Rules Committee

Mr. Laing reported that the Rules Committee had met this week. Its first item of discussion was the status of funding by the state, which Mr. Matoff reviewed earlier.

The proposed 1995 transportation summit was also discussed at the Rules Committee meeting. Mr. Drewel indicated that he, Mr. Sutherland, Mr. Morrison, and Mr. Duane Berentson met with Rep. Schmidt and arrived at a tentative date for the summit: July 11 and 12.

He said the RTA may be asked to provide some resources in support of the summit, but is not being invited as a participant. It will be co-sponsored by the three county executives and the LTC, and coordinated by the Washington Transportation Policy Institute, which will allow for participation by Mr. Berentson.

Mr. Laing stated that he thought the summit had the potential of putting into perspective the broader array of transportation needs in the region reflected in the MTP and to bring together federal, regional and local representatives so we might reach concurrence on how to address those needs. Mr. Drewel concurred.

The last item discussed by the Rules Committee was the staffing plan. Mr. Matoff updated the Board. Based on the Plan C for zero-based budgeting, staff will be reduced to 30.5 FTEs for the coming year.

The intent is to work with the King County Department of Metropolitan to return some of the 32 people assigned to the RTA. It is also intended to give as early as possible notice to the people affected by layoffs or being returned to DMS with an uncertain future.

Mr. Laing explained that the staff consists of two types of personnel. The first type is DMS employees who have been loaned to the RTA as a continuation of staff loaned to the RTA over the last five years, and started with the JRPC. When the RTA was formed, that arrangement was continued. Additionally, direct employees of the RTA have also been hired

A summary of the staffing plan is on file.

(Board member Hague arrived at this time.)

Ms. Choe commented that she would like the Finance Committee to discuss span of control, the salaries of the managers and the proportion of managers to staff. Ms. Hendrickson indicated that it would be placed on the agenda.

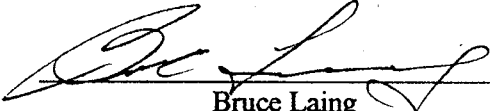
Other Business

Mr. Laing suggested that the Board undertake a workshop at the next meeting to bring into focus many of the things that have been going on in separate arenas. It would include a more thorough analysis of the legislation and the parameters it entails.


Ms. Gates suggested that the Board also receive a briefing on the Metropolitan Transportation Plan.

Adjournment

As there was no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 2:47 p.m.

  
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Bruce Laing  
Chairman of the Board

ATTEST:

  
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Marcia Walker  
Board Administrator

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