

**Regional Transit Authority
June 9, 1995**

Board Meeting Minutes

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 2:15 p.m. in the Auditorium of the Tacoma Public Utilities Building, 3628 South 35th Street, Tacoma, Washington by Chairman Laing.

Attendance

Chair:

Bruce Laing, King County Councilmember

Vice Chairs:

Dave Earling, Edmonds Councilmember

Paul Miller, Tacoma Councilmember

King County:

Don Davidson, Bellevue Mayor

Jane Hague, King County Councilmember

Greg Nickels, King County Councilmember

Pierce County:

Sharon Boekelman, Bonney Lake Councilmember

Doug Sutherland, Pierce County Executive

Snohomish County:

Bob Drewel, Snohomish County Executive

Public Comment

Mr. Laing stated that while the agenda did not indicate a period for public comment, the board would take three minute comments.

The following individuals presented comments to the Board. Comments are on file with the Board Administrator.

Mr. Richard Tate, Bellevue

Mr. Jim Henderson, Executive Director of the Tacoma-Pierce County Municipal League

Mr. Bill Eager

Mr. Douglas Tooley, Seattle

Mr. Dave Petrie

Finance Committee Report

1995/96 Budget

Mr. Nickels reviewed the proposed budget for July 1, 1995 through June 30, 1996 as an information item. He indicated that it would be before the Board for adoption at the June 23 meeting.

The proposal assumes a spring 1996 election date and a reduced work plan to reflect the reduced funding levels. It is based on a revenue projection of \$4.27 million, plus a cash balance of \$750,000, for a total of \$5.02 million. Those sources are \$2.5 million from the state HCT account and the final portion of the 1995 loan from King County of \$620,000. It also includes federal reimbursement of \$750,000 and a federal STP grant for which a scope of work has been approved. The work plan is costed at \$4.85 million. This has been adjusted for currently available funding. The key elements and assumptions remain.

The budget reflects a spring 1996 election and the \$1.5 million cost of the special election. Additionally, it reflects a 40% reduction in staffing from 50 full time equivalents (FTEs) to 30 FTEs, with significant emphasis on public involvement and the coordination of bus and HOV studies.

It is a 62% reduction from the 1994 budget and a 40% reduction in staffing. It is close to a 100% reduction in consultant support.

Mr. Laing reported that an issue came up in the Finance Committee's meeting, which was referred to the Rules Committee, regarding the way salaries and consulting costs are reflected in the budget as related to the Director of Engineering position. The Rules Committee concluded the budget doesn't accurately show the way those services are being obtained. It is showing a salary expense when it actually is a consulting cost that the RTA fills as an FTE position. An amendment would be made through a motion at the Board's June 23 meeting.

He reminded the Board that a vote of two-thirds of the Board's members is required to adopt the budget.

Rules Committee Report

Mr. Laing reported that that he had received a letter from Mr. Matoff, notifying the Board Chair that he is initiating the 90 day notice under his agreement, resulting in the termination of his services effective August 31, 1995. A copy of this letter is on file.

The Rules Committee reviewed a draft letter for the Chair's signature to go to the Governor in response to an inquiry about the RTA's position on possible vetoes of the transportation budget. Copies of the letter are on file.

The Rules Committee reviewed correspondence regarding the lobbying contract for services in Washington DC. The recommendation from the Rules Committee was to reduce our budget item from \$10,000 to \$6,000 per month. The issue had not been addressed by the Legislative Task Force so outreach to the committee members will occur before a final decision is sought from the Board.

Mr. Davidson requested the Rules Committee review the calling of executive sessions and the policies for doing so.

Other Business

Mr. Matoff distributed a copy of the draft final report on the Commuter Rail Demonstration Project and indicated it would be reviewed at the June 23 Board meeting.

Mr. Laing went over the correspondence contained in Boardmembers' packets, including the letter to the Governor and Senator Owen thanking them for their support of the RTA's budget request; a letter from Kent Pullen, accompanied by a summary of testimony received at the King County Council's Committee of the Whole meeting, where a variety of interest groups were asked to give their perception of why the ballot issue failed; a FAX from Tim Lovain to Paul Miller regarding the Tacoma City Manager's communication with Norm Dicks about retaining federal commuter rail funding should the RTA cease to exist. This is utilizing legislation Tacoma proposed, under which it is possible for the three cities to operate passenger or freight rail systems; a memo from Councilmember Earling enclosing a position paper developed by the Snohomish County Committee for Improved Transportation (SCCIT).

Mr. Madsen clarified the issue of Tacoma's proposal regarding commuter rail authorization and appropriation. Tacoma submitted a proposal that was a back-up in case the RTA fell apart. The language suggested that any governmental entity authorized for transit agencies would be eligible to receive commuter rail funds if the RTA fell apart. It is intended to assure that if something happens to the RTA, an appropriate governmental entity would be in line for this money.

Mr. Davidson inquired about the letter to the Governor in reference to studies done by groups other than the RTA and whether those studies would be subject to the same examination as the RTA's studies.

Mr. Laing responded that during the conference committee discussions, a proposal that there be \$250,000 available to the RTA, if the RTA could demonstrate working cooperatively with the other entities and \$50,000 to the DOT to continue to fund the Expert Review Panel (ERP) was made. The letter indicates we believe this effort may result in proposals that are positive in resolving mobility problems in the Central Puget Sound.

Mr. Metcalf reported that the \$250,000 is incorporated in the \$1.4 million that is appropriated in the new section 228. It is there to allow coordination.

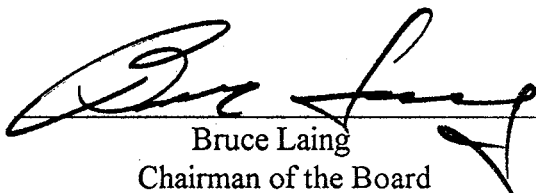
Next Meeting

Mr. Laing asked the Board to be open to beginning the June 23 board meeting at 1:00 to allow for a short business meeting, followed by a continuation of the workshop.

Would it be possible to start the Board's June 23 meeting at 1:00 p.m.? This would allow for a short business meeting, to be followed by a continuation of today's workshop.

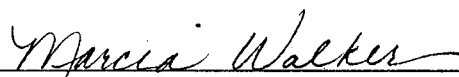
Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 3:02 p.m.



Bruce Laing
Chairman of the Board

ATTEST:



Marcia Walker
Board Administrator

dam