

Regional Transit Authority

July 14, 1995
Board Meeting Minutes

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 1:38 p.m. by Chairman Laing. It was held in room 402 of the King County Courthouse, Seattle, Washington.

Attendance

Chairman:

Bruce Laing, King County Councilmember

Vice Chairs:

Dave Earling, Edmonds Councilmember

Paul Miller, Tacoma Deputy Mayor

King County:

Martha Choe, Seattle Councilmember

Don Davidson, Bellevue Mayor

Mary Gates, Federal Way Mayor

Pierce County:

Ken Madsen, Pierce County Councilmember

Doug Sutherland, Pierce County Executive

Snohomish County:

Bob Drewel, Snohomish County Executive

Ed Hansen, Everett Mayor

Washington State Department of Transportation:

Lois Anderson, representing Sid Morrison, Secretary

The following Board members arrived after roll call:

King County:

Jane Hague, King County Councilmember

Gary Locke, King County Executive

Greg Nickels, King County Councilmember

Approval of Minutes

It was moved by Ms. Gates, seconded by Mr. Hansen and carried by the unanimous vote of all Board members present that the minutes of the April 14, 1995 RTA Board meeting be approved as presented.

Public Comment

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

Mr. Paul Chilcote, Port of Tacoma
Mr. Keith Christian, Port of Seattle
Mr. Mark Dublin, Ballard

(Board members Nickels and Locke arrived at this time.)

Report of the Chair

Mr. Laing indicated that Mr. Paul Matsuoka, deputy executive director, was in attendance in Mr. Matoff's absence. Mr. Adam Gravely attended the meeting as the Board's legal counsel, in Mr. Bob Gunter's absence.

Executive Director Report

Mr. Matsuoka held comment until agenda item 9b.

Standing Committee and Task Force Reports

Public Involvement Committee

Mr. Earling reported that the most recent public involvement effort being formed would take place at the end of July. It is an effort being spearheaded by the chamber of commerce and some of the municipal leagues and the League of Women Voters.

(Board member Hague arrived at this time.)

The second issue he reported on had to do with the Public Involvement Committee review of the schedule for a revised ballot proposal and how the Committee would interact with that. He said an idea of when the public involvement effort would conclude and the Board's consideration of a new plan would be discussed later on the agenda.

W/M/DBE Task Force

Ms. Choe reported that since the last Board meeting the Task Force sponsored a public hearing and workshop on the draft goals submitted to the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) to hear questions and concerns from the public. There were a number of members of the public representing minority and women contractors expressing their support for the RTA going forward. Questions about the impact of certain court rulings were raised. The hearing was held on the same day the Oregon Transportation Department decided to suspend its W/MDBE goals. Mr. Alec Stevens was present and explained what that court ruling meant for the RTA deadline. He reaffirmed the RTA's commitment to a program that would withstand legal challenges. Ms. Choe reconfirmed the RTA's commitment to a creative and aggressive program to have

participation by W/M/DBEs, as well as local businesses. Those present provided good suggestions to assure a level playing field and to try to encourage full participation which will be taken into account. She thanked the members of the public for their time and thoughtful input.

Items for Board Action

Resolution No. 68 - Recognizing Governor Lowry for Support of the RTA

It was moved by Mr. Miller, seconded by Ms. Choe and carried by the unanimous vote of all Board members present that Resolution No. 68 be approved as presented.

Nominating Committee Recommendations

It was moved by Mr. Sutherland, seconded by Mr. Drewel and carried by the unanimous vote of all Board members present that Mr. Laing be elected to continue as Chair as long as he is a member of this Board.

It was moved by Mr. Sutherland, seconded by Mr. Drewel and carried by the unanimous vote of all Board members present that Mr. Miller and Mr. Earling continue in their positions as Vice Chairs.

Executive Director Replacement Process

Mr. Laing reported that the Executive Director Search Committee had met and discussed whether an Executive Director should be selected from within the RTA staff or from outside. The Committee recommended the search not be restricted to the current staff, but that staff be invited to apply for the position.

The Committee went on to recommend to the Board a number of items related to the process. The Committee recommended that the position be filled as soon as possible with the objective to have a new Executive Director before the existing Executive Director leaves at the end of August. Salary and benefits will be retained, with the exception that there not be a moving allowance. This recommendation was related to the proposition that the search would be focused in the Puget Sound region, due not only to timing, but the characterization that the individual selected would have knowledge of the transportation policies and issues in the region, as well as the political climate and structure.

The Committee started a conversation on the qualifications and characteristics, which will be more specifically articulated in a draft that will be available by Monday of next week for comment by all Board members.

The Search Committee suggested the Board, in order to accommodate a rapid process, utilize the same executive search firm used in hiring Mr. Matoff. Board members had expressed satisfaction with the service at that time. They asked that Mr. Laing obtain an opinion from legal counsel as to whether the RTA could do a sole source contract with this firm. Legal counsel said this could be done. Ms. Jan Hendrickson, Finance Director, reaffirmed that the budget doesn't include funds necessary to retain a search firm. Mr. Laing talked with a majority of the Search

Committee by phone and found there was support for a recommendation that the search be undertaken with in-house staff. The committee proposed utilizing Ms. Marcia Walker, Board Administrator, who has experience in personnel issues, and Mr. Tom Kraft, legislative aide to Mr. Laing, as the staff team to do this outreach. There would be \$5,000 made available, \$3,000 of which could be utilized for specific services of the search firm used in the past, but on more of an as needed advice and counsel. The \$2,000 would be used for advertising and related logistical expenses. Ms. Hendrickson indicated it is possible to produce these funds.

Mr. Laing further reported that the committee recommended a person be hired for a specific time period that runs through a successful election. The committee is not recommending hiring someone to construct and operate a system. There would be a search for a new executive after a successful election.

Mr. Laing asked Ms. Choe to share the comments she made during the Search Committee meeting regarding the qualifications. She said that although the Board has not decided on what will go forward or when, she felt that the RTA needs someone with strong skills dealing with external constituents. The expectation would be for this person to have strong management skills and to be sure staff would continue to be responsive to Board concerns and requests, but given the nature of consensus building for whatever proposal is taken forward, the skills dealing with the legislative community and business leaders would be extremely important. The profile for an interim would be someone who would command respect and have the ability to gain support and get the RTA to a winning election. After a successful election the profile of an individual needed to run a system would be determined.

Mr. Laing asked for consensus on the general concepts of the time line to have someone on board before the end of August; to use an in-house approach with some consulting from a recruiting firm; and that the Board be willing to review and comment on a written profile. The Board would delegate to the Search Committee the task of reducing applicants to a group of five or fewer for interview by the full Board.

It was moved by Mr. Sutherland and seconded by Ms. Choe that the Board concur with the general concepts described by Mr. Laing, and that \$5,000 be authorized for the uses described.

Mr. Laing reminded the Board that he, the three county executives, Mr. White, Ms. Choe and the two Vice Chairs serve on the Search Committee.

The motion was carried by the unanimous vote of all Board members present.

Items for Board Information/Discussion

Pierce County Board Member Appointment

Mr. Laing noted that Pierce County had appointed Mr. Bill Stoner to replace Ms. Sharon Boekelman on the RTA Board.

Tri-County Summit on Mobility Needs

Mr. Laing asked Mr. Matsuoka to give a report from his perspective and Boardmembers to give their observations.

Mr. Matsuoka called the Board's attention to a one-page sheet in their packets (copy on file). He stated that the panel had included Mr. King Cushman and Ms. Renee' Montgelas and RTA staff. There were four or five remarks the LTC asked staff to touch on: what is the RTA supposed to do, what is its mandate; what are the major alternatives that were looked at in the past; what was in the March 14 plan sent to the voters; after the defeat of the ballot measure, where is the RTA going. The panel talked about ballot transportation issues and where the RTA fits in.

Mr. Drewel observed that the majority of the Boardmembers present for this Board meeting were also present for the summit and served as members of the panels, which he felt was very helpful. He complimented Mr. Matsuoka on his report to the summit.

The summit lasted two days. There was consensus in terms of the direction provided and the network of integrated regional transit services. There was consensus about regional transit, and local transit. Seamless service was very important and there was consensus. The panel felt something needs to be done that costs and there was consensus on that. There was a consensus for a shorter time frame. It became clear that although it was the intent of the LTC to hold at least two more hearings throughout the state, the importance of this region and the economy of the state were discussed at great length. The other similarity was a great deal of concern about freight mobility.

Mr. Miller expressed concern over the focus the Board is taking. The decision-making process seems to be driven by mandates from the legislature regarding a time line for a spring vote. As a consensus, the Board has been establishing a process that focuses on details of a downsized proposal. He stated that he believes it is insufficient to rush to a spring vote without attending to more basic details in advance of any decision. The basic issues that are driving any decision the Board makes, specifically those points related to legislative strategy and authority, should be discussed.

The summit reiterated a belief that the RTA proposal and any proposals must be part of a broader proposal looking at the entire transportation system and not as a single element. There was a little disagreement at the summit and among the RTA Board, and a little commitment to change where the legislature says the RTA addresses only high capacity. He stated that he thought the issues need to be discussed regarding the level of decisions and whether a variable tax rate would be possible to address the equity situation.

He stated that the Board needs to consider the impacts on freight mobility. He asked for an opportunity for the Board to meet in a workshop format to talk about the RTA's role in the larger picture, the ideal timing for a vote, the structure of the RTA, taxing authority, a legislative package and the need to assure a successful vote.

Mr. Laing expressed that the issues Mr. Miller raised have been brought up by many Boardmembers. One of the benefits of the summit was the articulation of the role of the MTP as

being the policy umbrella for implementing a full array of the transportation system in the region. The RTA mandate for high capacity transit is one portion of the system, to be coordinated with others. He thought that by joining the RTA work program with the efforts of the PSRC a proposal could be developed that is a broader part of the MTP, showing the relationships among the different components.

He pointed out that the RTA is constrained by the budget more than the calendar. There aren't resources available to go much beyond the spring of 1996.

Ms. Choe concurred with Mr. Miller's observations and added that her concerns were laying out an action plan through November, thinking about perception in trying to identify critical pieces of legislation that may need to be changed, discussions going around in a circle, the energy level of the Board, the value of the relationships that have been forged, trying to bring something together with the existing Board. She restated Mr. Miller's suggestion that the Board focus on legislative changes and try to get that done before November.

Schedule for Phase I Plan Adoption

Mr. Laing asked Ms. Barbara Dougherty to review the proposed schedules for developing a revised ballot proposal (copy on file).

Agenda Items for July 16, 1995 Rules Committee Meeting

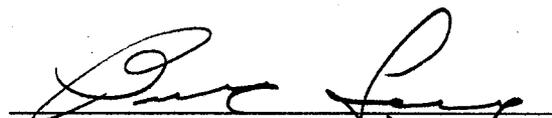
Mr. Laing informed the Board that the Rules Committee would be reviewing an amendment to Resolution No. 1 regarding attendance at executive sessions by individuals other than Boardmembers. Additionally, per diem allowances and reimbursement procedures would be reviewed as required by Section 5 of Resolution No. 15. He invited all Boardmembers to attend the July 26 meeting, set for 2:00 p.m.

Other Business

There was no other business.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 3:40 p.m.


Bruce Laing
Chairman of the Board

ATTEST:


Marcia Walker
Board Administrator

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