

Regional Transit Authority
September 22, 1995

Board Meeting Minutes

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 1:45 p.m. in the World Trade Center, Fife, Washington by Vice Chairman Miller.

Attendance

Vice Chair:

Paul Miller, Tacoma Councilmember

King County:

Don Davidson, Bellevue Mayor

Mary Gates, Federal Way Mayor

Cynthia Sullivan, King County Councilmember

Jim White, Kent Mayor

Pierce County:

Ken Madsen, Pierce County Councilmember

Bill Stoner, Pierce County Councilmember

Doug Sutherland, Pierce County Executive

Washington State Department of Transportation:

Sid Morrison, Secretary

The following Board members arrived after roll call:

King County:

Martha Choe, Seattle City Councilmember

Jane Hague, King County Councilmember

Vice Chair:

Dave Earling, Edmonds Councilmember

The Board Administrator indicated there was not yet a quorum of members present at the start of the meeting.

Mr. Miller noted that he was chairing the meeting because Chair Laing was out of town. He welcomed Mr. Bob White, the new Executive Director of the RTA.

Public Comment

There was no one from the public who addressed the Board at this meeting.

Report of the Chair

Mr. Miller reviewed the schedule for the second and third regional transportation summits, sponsored by the Legislative Transportation Committee (LTC) and the Washington Transportation Policy Institute.

The Eastern Washington Transportation Summit in Yakima (October 2-3) will focus mainly on issues specific to eastern Washington; the Western Washington Transportation Summit in Silverdale (October 24-25) will focus mainly on issues specific to western Washington outside of the Snohomish/King/Pierce County areas.

The first summit, which was held in July, addressed transportation issues in Snohomish, King and Pierce Counties. The registration fee for each summit is \$50. The wrap-up session for all three summits is scheduled for November 21 in Olympia.

Executive Director Report

Mr. White thanked the Board for selecting him as the Executive Director.

He indicated that he had met with each Board member, and had received through those meetings a message of interest in preserving limited financial resources to give increased flexibility for further outreach. As a result, he reported that he had initiated steps internally to try to provide more flexibility, including having an immediate review of the existing budget. In addition, the King County Department of Metropolitan Services has been notified that additional loaned staff may be returned. Because of a sixty day notification clause, notice had to be given to preserve that option.

Mr. White indicated that he had been reviewing contracts for engineering services to see if cost savings could be achieved. Finally, the Director of Planning and Communications position has been eliminated and those staff responsibilities have been shifted to the Deputy Director. Mr. White stated that he would continue the budget review.

(Board member Choe arrived at this time.)

Mr. White then referred the Board to a potential action item, Motion No. 7 (copy on file).

It was moved by Mr. Morrison, seconded by Mr. White and carried by the majority vote of all Board members present (nine to one, Mr. Davidson voted in the minority) that Motion No. 7 be referred to the Rules Committee for review.

Minutes

It was moved by Mr. Morrison, seconded by Mr. White and carried by the unanimous vote of all Board members present that the minutes of August 11 and August 25, 1995 be approved as presented.

RTA/Citizen Forum

Mr. Miller indicated that Ms. Barbara Dougherty would give the report, as Mr. Earling was not yet present.

Summary of Presentations, Positions, Comments

Ms. Dougherty referred the Board to three items: 1) a list of presenters; 2) a list of key issues addressed; and 3) position statements and proposals from those who made presentations (copies on file).

(Board member Hague arrived at this time.)

Ms. Dougherty reviewed the key issues listed on the one-page hand-out.

(Board member Earling arrived at this time.)

Board members further discussed the forum and the divergent views expressed there.

Items for Board Action

Ad Hoc Committee on Regional Outreach

Mr. Miller indicated that this Committee had been formed to respond to the need for a mediator to do regional outreach. The committee is charged with developing recommendations on instructing additional outreach efforts to ensure that the Board would have direct contact with major interest groups. Mr. Miller serves as Chair on this Committee, along with Ms. Choe, Mr. Earling, Mr. Madsen, Ms. Sullivan and Mr. White. The Committee is making specific recommendations to the Board concerning structure, reporting authority, funding and potential schedules. These recommendations are covered in a memorandum from Mr. Miller to Mr. Laing (copy on file).

Mr. Miller outlined the Committee recommendations regarding the structure of an outreach effort. The Board would select a facilitator to organize a group of three to 10 members. That group would assist the Board in achieving a consensus regarding a revised proposal, and would then engage with the legislature and the public regarding that revised plan.

It was moved by Mr. Morrison and seconded by Ms. Gates that the Committee proceed with the structure as outlined. The motion to approve the recommended structure was carried by the majority vote of all Board members present (nine to one, Mr. Davidson voting in the minority).

Mr. Miller explained the Committee recommendations regarding reporting authority. The facilitator would report to the Executive Director but would have accessibility to the entire Board.

It was moved by Ms. Sullivan, seconded by Mr. White and carried by the unanimous vote of all Board members present that the facilitator report to the Executive Director, but have accessibility to the entire Board.

Mr. Miller stated that the Executive Director would be expected to allocate limited RTA resources as necessary to fund the facilitator position, either as a direct contact employee or as a consultant. The position could also be filled through a "loaned executive" approach. Funding is to be addressed at the Committee's next meeting.

Mr. Miller explained that the Board would need to further clarify the role of the facilitator before an individual could be selected. He asked that Board members provide him with suggestions and names.

Mr. Morrison asked that Mr. Aubrey Davis be added to the list of candidates.

Mr. Miller reported that in order for the Ad Hoc Outreach Committee to complete the process of selecting a facilitator and other individuals, the committee felt there was a need for the Board to have in-depth discussion of issues. In order to facilitate that, a series of options were included regarding structure and reporting authority. Discussion has ranged from the need to move a ballot measure forward and to stay within the established budget and a need to broaden the authority, which would require legislative action. The timetable for legislative changes needs to be determined before the LTC wrap-up summit. The three options, short term, mid-term and long-term, are outlined in the handout (copy on file).

Mr. Miller summarized the discussion by stating that the majority of the Board members expressed the need to focus on a Spring or Fall 1996 election date; that 1997 would not be acceptable. There was consensus that the Board needs to establish a plan as soon as possible, and that the tax configuration will be dependent on the elements in the plan. If the elements are outside of the RTA's authority, there would be a need for legislative action to fund those or to transfer the taxing authority to the RTA or to add a local gas tax option.

Establish Topics and Schedule for Future Board Workshops

Mr. Miller reported that Mr. Laing asked him to explore with the Board the possibility of holding special meetings, if needed, on October 20 or November 3. He asked staff to do outreach with Board members to confirm their availability.

Next Meeting

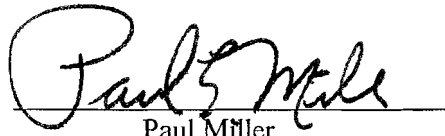
The next meeting of the Board is scheduled for Friday, October 13 from 1:30 to 4:30 p.m. in the King County Courthouse.

Other Business

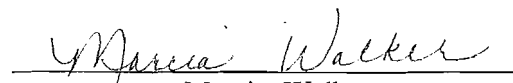
There was no other business.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 3:30 p.m.


Paul Miller
Vice Chair of the Board

ATTEST:


Marcia Walker
Board Administrator

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