

**Central Puget Sound  
Regional Transit Authority**

**September 11, 1997  
Board Meeting Summary Minutes**

**Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 3:37 p.m. by Board Chair Drewel in the sixth floor conference room of the Puget Sound Regional Council Offices, 1011 Western Avenue, Seattle, Washington.

**Roll Call**

**Attendance**

Chair

(P) Bob Drewel, Snohomish County Executive

Vice Chairs

(P) Paul Miller, City of Tacoma Councilmember

(A) Greg Nickels, King County Councilmember

(A) Sarah Casada, Pierce County Councilmember	(P) Sid Morrison, WSDOT Secretary
(A) Ann Davis, City of Lakewood Councilmember	(A) Norm Rice, City of Seattle Mayor
(P) Dave Earling, City of Edmonds Council President	(P) Dave Russell, City of Kirkland Councilmember
(P) Mary Gates, City of Federal Way Councilmember	(P) Ron Sims, King County Executive
(A) Jane Hague, King County Council Chair	(P) Cynthia Sullivan, King County Councilmember
(A) Ed Hansen, City of Everett Mayor	(P) Doug Sutherland, Pierce County Executive
(P) Richard McIver, City of Seattle Councilmember	(P) Jim White, City of Kent Mayor
(P) Rob McKenna, King County Councilmember	

The Board Administrator announced that a quorum of Board members was present at roll call.

The following Board member arrived after roll call:

Ron Sims, King County Executive

**Other Business**

Mr. Drewel introduced Mr. John Horseley, Assistant Secretary of the Federal Department of Transportation.

Mr. Horseley expressed his delight in delivering the news that the RTA would receive \$1.3 million in federal funds. He stated that much of the planning, engineering and environmental work on the commuter rail corridor between Tacoma and Seattle has been done, but the remaining work from Lakewood to Tacoma to Seattle will be partially funded with the \$1.3 million grant.

Mr. Drewel expressed the board's appreciation to Mr. Horseley and to Mr. Earling, Chair of the Public and Government Affairs Committee, for their hard work and support of the RTA.

## **Public Comment**

The following individuals presented comments to the board:

Mr. Paul W. Locke  
Mr. Douglas Tooley  
Mr. Philip Grega  
Mr. Frank Hutchins

Comments are on file with the Board Administrator.

## **Report of the Chair**

Mr. Drewel reported that the October retreat would be cancelled, as he would be out of town. The Executive Committee will continue to work on the board and committee structure and to discuss the policies contained in the Board Policy Timetable over the next couple of months. A segment of the November budget retreat will be devoted to this topic.

Mr. Drewel extended a special invitation to all board members to participate in the next few Executive and Finance Committee meetings, while the committees work on board policies and the budget/work program.

Mr. Drewel concluded his report by stating that he and Mr. Paul Price, Commuter Rail Director, recently met with Mr. Krebbs of Burlington Northern/Santa Fe (BNSF) in Fort Worth, Texas. He indicated the meeting went very well, and the RTA expects to have a contract with BNSF soon for engineering work.

## **Executive Director Report**

None.

## **Consent Agenda Items**

Minutes of July 10 and 24, 1997 Board Meetings

**It was moved by Mr. White, seconded by Mr. Morrison and carried by the unanimous vote of all Board members present that the consent agenda items be approved as presented.**

## **Downtown Seattle - University District Light Rail Task Force - Final Report**

Mr. Paul Bay provided the background on the formation of the task force. In response to concerns about the Capitol Hill tunnel, the board committed to appoint a task force, with representatives from the neighborhoods, to evaluate an alternative alignment for the light rail service between Seattle and the UW. That alternative would be studied during the engineering phase of the project along with the preferred alternative identified in Sound Move.

Mr. Bay indicated that the task force was appointed last spring and has prepared a report (copy on file). Mr. Bay introduced task force members Ms. Renee Davis, Co-Chair of the Roosevelt Neighborhood Planning Association, and Mr. Mike Williams, Manager of Transportation Systems of the UW.

Ms. Davis summarized the task force alternative alignment recommendation, as supported by a majority of the members (copy on file). She cited the addition of service to Seattle Center, to the South Lake Union area (with currently low transit ridership), and lessened impact to the neighborhoods as some reasons for the selection of the proposed alternative alignment.

Mr. Drewel thanked the task force for all of its hard work.

(Mr. Sims arrived.)

## **Committee Reports**

### **Finance Committee**

#### **Report of September 4, 1997 Meeting**

Ms. Gates reported that the committee received a report from the Chair of the Citizen Oversight Panel, Mr. Goldblatt. The panel had held a four-hour meeting that looked at the RTA's first six months of operation. They used the report card format they developed and presented at the board's July 24 retreat. The final report will be issued at the Finance Committee meeting of September 18.

Mr. Goldblatt suggested that the board appoint a new member to take the place of the resigning Mr. Batra. Ms. Gates indicated that the Executive Committee would take this up at a future meeting.

In addition, Ms. Gates reported that the committee reviewed the agency's financial performance through July 31. Tax collections are close to the projections. The RTA has received \$13+ million in motor vehicle excise tax revenues and \$24+ million in sales tax revenues.

#### **Proposed Budget Process/Schedule - Status Report**

Ms. Gates reported that the 1998 budget will include operating and capital budgets and an updated financing plan, and will represent the RTA's first effort at implementing the financial policies in an annual budget process. Ms. Gates referred board members to a memorandum outlining the process for budget adoption (copy on file).

#### **Investment Policies Pertaining to Cash Management - Information**

Ms. Gates referred board members to the proposed investment policy scheduled for board adoption on September 25 (copy on file). In addition, the committee reviewed a resolution which would authorize the agency to invest in the local government investment pool. The Finance Committee asked staff to explore possibilities of using King County's investment pool as well.

### **Public and Government Affairs Committee**

#### **Report of September 5, 1997 Meeting**

Mr. Earling reported that the committee heard an update on the joint disparity study the RTA is participating in. That study is scheduled to be concluded by November, and a written report to the board will be provided when the committee receives it.

Motion No. 40 - Committing to the integration of public art in the implementation of the Sound Transit System

Mr. Drewel introduced Ms. Carol Valenta from the King County Public Arts Program. She has worked on the downtown Seattle Metro tunnel, as well as having provided consultation on public art programs to other national transit systems in the country.

Ms. Valenta presented a slide show, depicting the integration of art into projects in Stockholm, St. Louis, Los Angeles, Cleveland, Portland, Miami and Arizona.

Mr. Earling indicated that, as a result of the committee discussion, it became apparent that the board needed to ask staff to design a master plan and budget alternatives for public art. At the same time the committee wanted it to be made known that the RTA has a strong commitment to art as an integral element of Sound Move. Originally, the committee had planned to seek action on Motion No. 40 at this meeting, but it is being presented for information instead.

Ms. Sullivan suggested that the board take action on Motion No. 40 at this meeting.

**It was moved by Mr. Earling, seconded by Mr. White and carried by the unanimous vote of all Board members present that Motion No. 40 be approved as presented.**

Other Business

None.

Next Meeting

The next RTA Board Meeting is scheduled for Thursday, September 25, 1997 from 3:00 to 5:00 p.m. in the Olympic Room of the Tacoma Public Library, 1102 Tacoma Avenue South, Tacoma.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:30 p.m.



Bob Drewel  
Board Chair

ATTEST:



Marcia Walker  
Board Administrator