

**Central Puget Sound  
Regional Transit Authority**

**January 22, 1998  
Board Meeting Summary Minutes**

**Call to Order**

Board Chair Bob Drewel called the meeting to order at 3:07 p.m. The meeting was held in the conference room of the Puget Sound Regional Council offices, 1011 Western Avenue, Seattle, Washington.

**Roll Call**

**Chair**

(P) Bob Drewel, Snohomish County Executive

**Vice Chairs**

(P) Paul Miller, City of Tacoma Councilmember

(P) Greg Nickels, King County Councilmember

**Board Members**

(A) Sarah Casada, Pierce County Councilmember	(P) Renee Montgelas, representing Sid Morrison
(A) Ann Davis, City of Lakewood Councilmember	(P) Dave Russell, City of Kirkland Councilmember
(P) Dave Earling, City of Edmonds Councilmember	(P) Paul Schell, City of Seattle Mayor
(P) Mary Gates, City of Federal Way Councilmember	(P) Ron Sims, King County Executive
(A) Jane Hague, King County Councilmember	(P) Cynthia Sullivan, King County Councilmember
(P) 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 the Board was present.

**Public Comment**

The following individuals presented comments to the Board:

Ms. Rebecca Clark, City of Covington

Mr. Philip Grega, Seattle

Mr. Douglas Tooley, Seattle

Mr. Paul W. Locke, Seattle

Mr. Larry Fogdall, Seattle

Ms. Linda Anderson, Amalgamated Transit Union Executive Board Officer

Comments are on file with the Board Administrator.

**Report of the Chair**

Mr. Drewel welcomed Mr. Paul Schell, Seattle Mayor, to the RTA Board. His appointment to the RTA Board was recently confirmed by the King County Council. The King County Council also confirmed the reappointment of Mayor Jim White of Kent, Kirkland City Councilmember Dave Russell, and King County Councilmembers Cynthia Sullivan and Rob McKenna to the RTA Board.

Mr. Drewel announced that Mr. Steve Goldblatt, Chair of the RTA's Citizen Oversight Panel (COP), was in attendance and had asked to share some comments with the Board.

Mr. Goldblatt stated that the Citizen Oversight Panel would also like to welcome Mr. Schell to the RTA. He distributed a copy of a letter from COP (copy on file), thanked the Board for appointing Mr. Stipe to the panel, expressed the panel's endorsement of Motion 98-2 (implementing an ongoing series of informational reports and briefings to the State Legislature), and indicated that he was planning to attend an April Board meeting to give a full COP report.

Mr. Drewel pointed out that the Board members' packets contained copies of a letter from Mayor Schell and one from Ms. Caroline Robertson, the president of the Bellevue Downtown Association. He also announced that the RTA was well represented at the Women in Transit Seminar banquet. He was the keynote speaker and Executive Director Bob White was given a Special Recognition Award for having skillfully guided the staff through last year's election.

### **Executive Director Report**

None.

### **Consent Agenda Items**

**It was moved by Mr. Sutherland, seconded by Mr. Miller and carried by the unanimous vote of all Board members present that the consent agenda (voucher certification for the period November 1 through November 30, 1997, totaling \$664,912.11) be approved as presented.**

### **Committee Reports and Action Items**

#### **Transit-Oriented Development Task Force Report**

Ms. Sullivan reported that while the task force is on a very tight time schedule, they are reviewing a variety of TOD efforts from around the region, including Canada, Portland and Kitsap County. The task force will synthesize what they learn into final recommendations for board consideration.

#### **Finance Committee Report**

Finance Committee Chair, Mr. Nickels, reported that the committee had taken action on three items at its January 15 meeting. The first was to recommend that the Executive Committee approve the execution of a contract with Deloitte & Touche, amount not to exceed \$300,000 for a three-year period to provide annual financial audits. The second item was to recommend that the Executive Committee authorize the Executive Director to purchase or lease furniture and equipment for the third floor of the RTA headquarters at an estimated cost of \$1.4 million. The final item was to recommend board approval of Resolution No. 98-3, the next agenda item.

#### **Resolution No. 98-3 - Authorizing the LRT Civil Facilities Design Contract with Puget Sound Transit Consultants**

**It was moved by Mr. Nickels and seconded by Mr. Miller that Resolution No. 98-3 be approved as presented.**

Mr. Nickels described Resolution No. 98-3, which would authorize a light rail transit (LRT) civil facilities design contract with a joint venture of Parsons Brinkerhoff Quade & Douglas, Inc., ICF Kaiser Engineers Inc., and BRW Inc. doing business as Puget Sound Transit Consultants (PSTC) in the amount of approximately \$23

million. Additionally, a contingency is established for \$4.6 million, which would be approved by the board through contracted change orders.

**The motion to approve Resolution No. 98-3 was carried by the unanimous vote of all RTA Board members present.**

Mr. Nickels announced that the RTA investment policy approved last September was recognized by the Municipal Treasurers' Association and that the Finance Committee has begun considering the location of the RTA's longer-term headquarters.

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

#### **Resolution No. 98-1 - Establishing Program Guidelines for Sound Transit Art and Adopting an Art Budget Policy**

**It was moved by Mr. Earling, seconded by Mr. Russell and carried by the unanimous vote of all Board members present that Resolution No. 98-1 be approved as presented.**

#### **Motion No. 98-2 - Committing to Provide a Status Report to the State Legislature on a Biennial Basis and to Provide Other Interim Reports as Necessary and Appropriate**

**It was moved by Mr. McKenna and seconded by Ms. Gates that Motion No. 98-2 be approved as presented.**

Mr. Sutherland stated that both the Finance and Executive Committees recommended that the report be provided on an annual basis. Mr. McKenna indicated he would accept the revision as a friendly amendment.

**The motion, as amended, was carried by the unanimous vote of all Board members present.**

#### **Motion No. 98-1 - Amending the RTA's 1998 State Legislative Program**

Mr. Earling reported that during the development of the RTA's state legislative program, staff had reviewed with the PGA Committee the option of seeking authority to undertake certain lease finance transactions for significant facility/equipment purchases (buses, rail cars and major facilities). This is done in other areas of the country and in other states and provides financial benefit to the transit agency. Calculations by staff indicate savings of approximately \$10- to \$15 million over the ten year period. The proposal has been before the PGA and Executive Committees and King County is interested in adopting similar language.

Mr. McKenna stated that discussions between King County and the RTA regarding expanding the scope of the legislative sell/lease package beyond transportation equipment and facilities to a broader range of public facilities has been favorably received. King County is interested in the sell/lease back option for the West Point secondary treatment plant.

Mr. Earling indicated that those facts had not been specific to the discussions last Friday and would constitute an amendment to the motion.

Mr. Drewel asked Mr. Earling and Mr. McKenna work on the amendment language, while the board continued with the agenda.

### **Federal Funding Strategy**

Ms. Sheila Dezarn briefed the board on the Covington issue. Options: 1) The board could unequivocally oppose the bill; or 2) the board could oppose the bill in its current form, raise issues and have staff seek to have

those addressed with the sponsor. The issues and problems with the bill as it is written, is it is open-ended and it allows cities in the future to withdraw from the RTA boundary.

Mr. Miller emphasized the appropriateness of the suggestion that the RTA Board must also vote on a city's withdrawal from the RTA district.

Mr. Sims suggested the title of the act itself be amended, as current language is very broad.

Mr. Earling responded that the bill's hearing is set for the week of January 26, 1998 and to work within that timeframe, the proposed revisions narrowing the bill would be faxed to board members.

#### Motion No. 98-1

Mr. Earling announced the suggested amendments to Motion 98-1: strike the word "transportation" in the second line of the third paragraph entitled, "Background"; and in the motion itself, add the words "to other public capital" between the words "transportation" and "facilities" (last line).

**It was moved by Mr. Earling, seconded by Mr. McKenna and carried by the unanimous vote of all Board members present that Motion No. 98-1 be approved, as amended.**

#### Federal Funding Strategy

Ms. Dezarn reported that Congress will convene January 27, 1998. At that time they will take up the transportation funding issue. She reviewed the 1998 federal legislative program, adopted by the board in December 1997 (copy on file). The RTA will take on four concurrent efforts in 1998: 1) work on ISTEA reauthorization issues; 2) seek fiscal year 1999 appropriation; 3) develop and implement a federal grants strategy; and 4) continue coordinating with the Federal Transit Administration (FTA).

She introduced Mr. Tim Lovain, the RTA's federal lobbyist, who gave a brief update.

#### Executive Committee Report

Mr. Drewel reported that the Executive Committee approved travel for board members to go to Washington, D.C. on February 2, 3 and 4.

#### Motion No. 98-10 - Endorsing WSDOT's general approach, described in its Draft Framework Document, for the Trans-lake Washington study

Mr. Drewel announced that the Executive Committee unanimously recommended adoption of Motion No. 98-10 and asked Ms. Montgela, Director of WSDOT's Office of Urban Mobility, for comments. She stated that WSDOT looked forward to the RTA's participation in the study and the committee that would guide the study. At a meeting held the day prior, the State Transportation Commission adopted a resolution endorsing the approach and added a provision that would direct the committee to complete its work by June 1999.

**It was moved by Mr. Nickels, seconded by Mr. Russell and carried by the unanimous vote of all board members present that Motion No. 98-10 be approved as presented.**

#### Motion No. 98-3 - Regional Express Fleet Procurement

Ms. Agnes Govern, Director of Regional Express, gave the presentation. She indicated that along with the discussion of alternative fuels in conjunction with the fleet procurement, staff is looking for board direction on an approach. Staff would then return with approval for a contract to actually purchase buses. Bus procurement does set a strategic direction and she reviewed that Sound Move was silent on fuels and the

choice of fuels, but stated the intent to contract with transit agencies. In the RTA service area, there are three transit agencies operating with diesel and one, Pierce Transit, operating a combination of compressed natural gas and diesel-fueled buses.

Prior to the discussion on fuels, Mr. Schell addressed the board. He expressed an apology to the board that the letter he had recently sent to each member had received media attention prior to boardmember receipt. He outlined the letter's contents: The City of Seattle is asking that some additional alternatives be explored as part of the EIS process. He expressed his support for the RTA and the timeframe. Mr. Schell indicated that within that timeframe, however, is time to explore, within the City of Seattle, whether there is an alternative route to accomplish the regional system where resources could be saved and applied to local services.


Mr. Drewel announced that the remainder of the agenda would be carried forward to the next meeting.

Other Business

As there was no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 5:08 p.m.

  
Bob Drewel  
Board Chair

ATTEST:

  
Marcia Walker  
Board Administrator