

Sound Transit
March 12, 1998
Board Meeting Summary Minutes

Call to Order

Chair Bob Drewel called the meeting to order at 2:15 p.m. The meeting was held at the Edmonds Public Library, 650 Main Street, Edmonds, Washington.

Roll Call

Chair

(P) Bob Drewel, Snohomish County Executive

Vice Chairs

(P) Paul Miller, City of Tacoma Councilmember

(A) Greg Nickels, King County Councilmember

Board Members

(A) Sarah Casada, Pierce County Councilmember

(P) Ann Davis, City of Lakewood Councilmember

(P) Dave Earling, City of Edmonds Councilmember

(P) Mary Gates, City of Federal Way Councilmember

(P) Jane Hague, King County Councilmember

(P) Ed Hansen, City of Everett Mayor

(A) Richard McIver, City of Seattle Councilmember

(P) Rob McKenna, King County Councilmember

(A) Sid Morrison, WSDOT Secretary

(P) Dave Russell, City of Kirkland Councilmember

(A) Paul Schell, City of Seattle Mayor

(A) Ron Sims, King County Executive

(P) Cynthia Sullivan, King County Councilmember

(P) Doug Sutherland, Pierce County Executive

(P) Jim White, City of Kent Mayor

The Board Administrator announced that a quorum of the board was not present at roll call.

The following board members arrived after roll call:

Ann Davis, City of Lakewood Councilmember

Cynthia Sullivan, King County Councilmember

Doug Sutherland, Pierce County Executive

Public Comment

The following individual presented comments to the board:

Mr. Paul W. Locke

Comments are on file with the Board Administrator.

Report of the Chair

Mr. Drewel expressed his appreciation to Mr. Miller and Mr. Earling for their hard work in Washington DC on behalf of Sound Transit.

Executive Director Report

Executive Director White referred board members to a discussion paper informing the board that Sound Transit and the transit operators in the Puget Sound area are planning to execute an agreement to proceed with the development

of specifications and completion of a request for proposals on the Smart Card implementation system (copy on file). He indicated that any formal action would come back to the board.

Executive Director White then referred board members to a memorandum regarding the American Public Transportation Association (APTA) conference to be held June 7 - 11, 1998 in San Diego, California (copy on file). He pointed out that there would be an opportunity to look at specific segments of San Diego's light rail and commuter rail systems, which might prove useful as the board begins to narrow the alternatives for Sound Transit's system.

(Board members Davis and Sutherland arrived at this time.)

Consent Agenda Items

The Board of the Central Puget Sound Regional Transit Authority does hereby approve the voucher certification for the period January 1 through January 31, 1998, totaling \$831,675.14.

It was moved by Mr. Russell, seconded by Ms. Gates and carried by the unanimous vote of all board members present that the consent agenda be approved as presented.

Policy Issues for Discussion and Deliberation

Evaluation criteria, methodology and test application for use in developing a detailed project description for the Link Light Rail Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS)

Mr. Paul Bay, Light Rail Director, indicated that staff would be requesting board action on May 14 to formally decide which alignment alternatives to include in the DEIS. He explained that Sound Transit was currently holding public workshops on the topic.

Ms. Valerie Rosekrantz, Light Rail Project Development Manager, referred board members to a scoping summary report, including the comments received in December and January, for the DEIS, as well as some general background information, including the dates and locations of the public workshops, the project development schedule and an executive summary (copies on file).

(Board member Sullivan arrived at this time.)

Sound Transit's Fare Policy

Ms. Barbara Gilliland, Systems Integration Program Manager for Regional Express, presented a discussion paper summarizing the discussions to date on the development of Sound Transit's fare policy (copy on file).

Ms. Gilliland's presentation followed an outline contained in a discussion paper titled "Sound Transit's Draft Fare Policy" (copy on file). The presentation covered fare policy objectives and principles, key issues, policies set forth in Sound Move, procedure for projecting operating recovery, Sound Move's financial plan, and peer fare comparisons.

Mr. Miller raised two issues discussed at the Finance Committee regarding commuter rail. The first was related to fare structure, in that the correlation between the bus fares being proposed and the light rail fares are fairly comparable. Commuter rail fares, however, are higher than some of the express bus routes that parallel commuter rail.

The second issue concerned the difference in fares for short trips. Staff is recommending that Sound Transit focus

on long distance riders on commuter rail, not short distance riders. Therefore the differential is much higher for a one-zone trip versus a three-zone trip. Mr. Miller pointed out that such a differential would negatively impact riders in Pierce County traveling from Lakewood to Tacoma or Puyallup to Tacoma.

Ms. Gilliland indicated that the different financial effects of the proposed Sound Transit fare structure would be discussed at the next fare policy forum, which would include policy makers from each of the transit agencies in the Puget Sound region. That forum is scheduled for March 18, 1998 at 2 p.m. Staff would be talking to each of the policy making boards to prepare for approval of a regional transfer system in the late summer or early fall.

Motion No. 98-19 - Identifying preferred station locations, adopting an environmental mitigation program, and directing staff to finalize the environmental review of the Tacoma-to-Seattle Commuter Rail project

Mr. Drewel indicated that the board discussed the Kent commuter rail station location in a workshop just prior to the board meeting. During that workshop, Mayor White forwarded a request that Sound Transit delay a decision to select either the south or north site in Kent for 90 days. Board members at the workshop thought that would be acceptable with the condition that action be taken no later than July 1.

Mr. White extended his appreciation to the board for allowing the additional time.

It was moved by Mr. Miller and seconded by Mr. Russell that Motion No. 98-19 be approved as distributed.

It was moved by Mr. Hansen, seconded by Mr. Sutherland and carried by the unanimous vote of all board members present that the decision on the preferred Kent station location be delayed for 90 days.

It was moved by Mr. McKenna, seconded by Ms. Gates and carried by the unanimous vote of all board members present that the words "or S.W. 43 Street" be stricken from the bullet point reading "Longacres or S.W. 43 Street".

The motion to adopt Motion 98-19, as amended, was carried by the unanimous vote of all board members present.

Committee Reports and Actions

Transit-Oriented Development Task Force

Report of February 27, 1998 Meeting

Ms. Sullivan reported that the task force would present its recommendations at the next board meeting.

Finance Committee

Report of March 5, 1998 Meeting

Ms. Gates, Finance Committee Vice-Chair, reported in Mr. Nickels' absence that the 1997 audit by Deloitte & Touche has been completed, and that there were no findings. The Finance Committee will review the final audit report at its March 16 meeting.

In addition, Ms. Gates reported that the Citizen Oversight Panel (COP) has begun its 1997 evaluation of Sound Transit. The Chair of the COP, Mr. Steve Goldblatt, gave the committee a status report. The committee requested that a member of the COP regularly attend Finance Committee meetings in order to provide regular status reports.

Ms. Gates indicated that the Finance Committee reviewed Resolution Nos. 98-6 and 98-7, proposed amendments to Sound Transit's credit card and travel policies. The committee will be forwarding those resolutions to the board at a future meeting.

Public and Government Affairs Committee

Report of March 6, 1998 Meeting

Mr. Earling gave a status report on ISTEA legislation, which he indicated is moving very quickly. He stated that Senators Murray and Gorton are working hard to bring federal dollars to the region. Mr. Earling indicated that Sound Transit is receiving strong support from Boeing and that the company has been a great advocate.

Mr. Earling reported on the state legislature. The short-term borrowing legislation has been passed and moved to the Governor for signature, as has the bill concerning the Covington issue. The "Buy Washington" bill died in Senate Rules Committee, and the revenue package has been put forward and will go to the ballot. Sound Transit's efforts with the purchase/lease back plan were not successful..

Executive Committee

Report of March 6, 1998 Meeting

Mr. Drewel reported that the Executive Committee passed Motion No. 98-14, approving the award of a contract to Berger/Abam Engineers, Inc. for the Lakewood-to-Tacoma commuter rail combined environmental document.

Sound Transit Nomination and Election of Officers

It was moved by Mr. Earling, seconded by Mr. Miller and carried by the unanimous vote of all board members present to suspend the rule dealing with the selection of officers so that Board Chair Drewel may conduct the election.

Mr. Drewel explained that Section 2, B of Resolution No. 80 which established the rules and operating procedures of the board state that: "selection of ...officers shall be as follows: The DOT Secretary shall chair the meeting for the purposes of the elections..." However, Resolution No. 80 also indicates that the elections of officers will take place in March. The board would only hold one meeting in March and Mr. Morrison, DOT Secretary, was unable to attend.

Mr. Drewel reported that the Executive Committee, at its February 20 meeting, nominated the Sound Transit officers for the 1998-2000 term. The committee recommended that the board maintain continuity with the current officers and elect Mr. Drewel as Chair and Mr. Nickels and Mr. Miller as Vice Chairs.

It was moved by Mr. White, seconded by Ms. Gates and carried by the unanimous vote of all board members present that Mr. Drewel be elected Chair, with Mr. Nickels and Mr. Miller as Vice Chairs, for the 1998-2000 term.

Mr. Drewel thanked the board for its continued support.

Resolution No. 98-5 - Memorandum of Understanding for planning, coordination and cooperation between the RTA, Puget Sound Regional Council and Community Transit, Everett Transit, King County Department of Transportation, Kitsap Transit and Pierce Transit

Mr. Drewel indicated that the Executive Committee recommended adoption of Resolution No. 98-5.

It was moved by Mr. Miller, seconded by Mr. White and carried by the unanimous vote of all board members present that Resolution No. 98-5 be approved as presented.

Motion No. 98-15 - Authorizing the Executive Director to enter into a Memorandum of Agreement with the City of Seattle

Motion No. 98-16 - Authorizing the Executive Director to enter into a Memorandum of Agreement with the City of Tukwila

Motion No. 98-17 - Authorizing the Executive Director to enter into a Memorandum of Agreement with the City of SeaTac

Motion No. 98-18 - Authorizing the Executive Director to enter into a Memorandum of Understanding with the City of Tacoma and Pierce Transit

It was moved by Mr. Hansen and seconded by Mr. Earling that Motions No. 98-15, 98-16, 98-17 and 98-18 be approved as presented.

The motion to approve Motions No. 98-15, 98-16, 98-17 and 98-18 was carried by the unanimous vote of all board members present.

Other Business

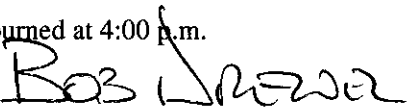
Mr. Sutherland referred board members to a letter from Pierce Transit Executive Director Don Monroe requesting Sound Transit consider increased funding for Seattle Express service. In August 1997 Seattle Express averaged 2,880 boardings per day; by January it had increased by 17%. In the first two weeks of February, the average number of boardings was 3,740

Next Meeting

The March 26, 1998 meetings has been cancelled. The next Sound Transit Board meeting will occur on Thursday, April 9, 1998, from 2 to 5 p.m.


Adjourn

As there was no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 4:00 p.m.



Bob Drewel
Board Chair

ATTEST:



Marcia Walker
Board Administrator