

Sound Transit

Board Meeting Summary Minutes September 24, 1998

Call to Order

Board Chair Miller called the meeting to order at 3:03 p.m. The meeting was held in the sixth floor conference room of the Puget Sound Regional Council, 1011 Western Avenue, Seattle, Washington.

Roll Call

Chair

(P) Paul Miller, City of Tacoma Councilmember

Vice Chairs

(P) Dave Earling, City of Edmonds Councilmember

(P) Greg Nickels, King County Councilmember

Board Members

(A) Ann Davis, City of Lakewood Councilmember

(P) Bob Drewel, Snohomish County Executive

(P) David Enslow, City of Sumner Councilmember

(P) Mary Gates, City of Federal Way Councilmember

(P) Jane Hague, King County Councilmember

(P) Ed Hansen, City of Everett Mayor

(P) 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, Seattle Mayor

(P) Ron Sims, King County Executive

(P) Cynthia Sullivan, King County Councilmember

(P) Doug Sutherland, Pierce County Executive

(A) Jim White, City of Kent Mayor

Marcia Walker, Board Administrator, indicated a quorum of the Board was present.

The following Board member arrived after roll call:

Rob McKenna, King County Councilmember

Public Comment

Mr. Mike Skehan, 410 Prospect Avenue, Kent, Washington, and

Mr. Lloyd Flemme, Olympia, Washington, both representing Washington State Association of Rail Passengers

Mr. Skehan and Mr. Flemme presented Mr. Drewel with the Tom Martin Memorial Award for his outstanding contributions toward achieving balanced and efficient public and private transportation systems during his tenure as Sound Transit Chair.

Mr. Mark Dublin, 3015 NW Market, Apt. B311, Seattle, Washington

(Board member McKenna arrived at this time.)

Report of the Chair

Report of the Performance Audit Committee of September 10, 1998

Mr. Miller stated that the Performance Audit Subcommittee held their first meeting two weeks ago. He mentioned that they selected two scopes of work for performance audit to be completed by year-end (copy of outline on file).

Mr. Miller also advised that beginning the first of the year, Board meeting times will be altered to begin at 2:30 p.m. and end at 4:30 p.m. In order to do this, action items will be scheduled early in the meetings, discussion items falling later on the agenda, and staff and committee reports will be limited to the most important information.

Executive Director Report

None.

Consent Agenda

Minutes of August 13, 1998 Board Meeting

The Board of the Central Puget Sound Regional Transit Authority does hereby approve the voucher certification for the period August 1 through August 31, 1998 totaling \$13,130,908.27.

It was moved by Ms. Gates and seconded by Ms. Sullivan that the consent agenda be approved as presented.

Mr. Miller stated for the record that he wanted to reinforce the statement in the Board minutes that the light rail vehicles for Tacoma be new and have low floors.

The motion to approve the consent agenda was carried by the unanimous vote of all Board members present.

Citizen Oversight Panel Mid-Year Report

Mr. Reid Shockey, Vice President of the Citizen Oversight Panel (COP), gave a review of the committee's report which was presented to the Finance Committee at its last meeting (copy of report on file).

Mr. Shockey said that it is the conclusion of the COP that Sound Transit appears, in all major respects, to be on budget and on schedule. The agency is close to being fully staffed and the major project management and engineering consultants have been co-located with Sound Transit staff and have begun working closely to design the system. The working relationships with most cities, transit agencies, and other partners have been negotiated and spelled out in agreements. In a highly competitive real estate market, the Board and staff have moved expeditiously to secure historic Union Station as the permanent headquarters for Sound Transit. This is a boon to local preservation efforts.

Areas the committee felt could be improved included Evaluating Alternatives, Balancing Regional and Local Needs, and System Integration. He mentioned that the committee is concerned about redeployment of hours as Regional Express Bus is implemented and hours are freed up and how those hours are redeployed.

Mr. Shockey summarized the report by stating that the agency is on time, on schedule, and on budget.

Mr. Nickels stated that the Finance Committee found the report to be an outstanding piece of work.

Committee Reports and Action Items

Finance Committee

Report of September 17, 1998 Meeting

Mr. Nickels stated that the Finance Committee took no action at its September 17, 1998 meeting. He advised the Board that The State Auditors completed their 1997 financial audit of the agency and gave a clean bill of health.

The Committee has begun review of the 1999 budget proposal. The Board will be hearing about this in the next few weeks.

Executive Committee

Report of September 18, 1998 Meeting

Mr. Miller stated that the Executive Committee discussed proposed Service Redeployment Guidelines and the Research and Technology fund at their last meeting. The Committee also reviewed proposed criteria for bus routes among the region's transit agencies and directed staff to go forward and bring the results back to the Executive Committee.

Issues for Discussion and Deliberation

Downtown Seattle Transit Tunnel - Modifications to Convert to Light Rail use, and the feasibility of future joint bus/rail operation

Mr. Paul Bay, Director of Link Light Rail, introduced Mr. Jared Smith, City of Seattle, and Mr. Jim Jacobsen, King County Metro staff.

Mr. Bay presented the downtown Seattle Transit Tunnel report. He advised the Board that light rail could be accommodated in the tunnel. He stated that it is being recommended that the rail in the tunnel be removed and reinstalled with a membrane around it to address stray current. The greatest impact during construction will be the additional buses on the streets.

Mr. Smith explained that a partnership between Sound Transit, Metro, and the City of Seattle will look at concepts such as increased priority for buses on Third Avenue, contraflow lanes on Second and Fourth Avenues, etc.

Mr. McKenna expressed concern with the projected ridership numbers at the Convention Place station going down.

Mr. Mike Williams, Link Light Rail Project Manager, stated that the station is currently a mini-terminal with buses coming in and transferring back to Capitol Hill or other places. Once the rail line goes through the station into downtown, the riders may not need to make those transfers. He said currently there are 2,600 boardings per day and the projection is 1,800 boardings per day with light rail.

Mr. Nickels mentioned that the original decision to put rail in the tunnel was considered a forward looking decision, with the hope of making it easier, faster, and less expensive to provide light rail in the tunnel. He stated concern that the same consultants are working on this system.

Mr. Bay stated that if the rail hadn't been installed in the tunnel, it would be harder to install it now. At that time, the consultants recommended putting a membrane around the rail, however, due to the added cost, this was not done.

Mr. Enslow expressed concern about a potential shock hazard.

Mr. Bay assured everyone that the stray current does not involve a hazard to passengers. It can't leave the rail to go into the ground.

Mr. McIver mentioned that by moving up the decision on the locally preferred alternative, little time would be left for Seattle City Council deliberations. He also questioned whether the ridership estimates include special events and if not, asked if the estimates were low.

Mr. Bay stated that he did not believe it included special events.

Mr. Miller advised the Board that there is time to work out the implementation issues. The Board will be addressing the tunnel and its joint use by February 1999 when selecting a preferred alternative route. He also stated that the cost associated with modifying the tunnel to accept the light rail system is still well within the budget as set forth in Sound Move.

Mr. McKenna reminded the Board that financial policies were established to ensure the project stays within the overall budget.

Other Business

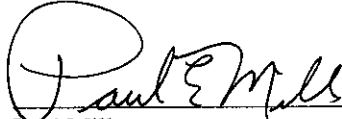
None.

Next Meeting

Thursday, October 8, 1998
Public Hearing on Service Implementation Plan
(October 8 business meeting cancelled)

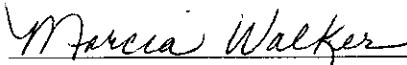
Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 4:10 p.m.



Paul Miller
Board Chair

ATTEST:



Marcia Walker
Board Administrator

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