

**Sound Transit
Board Meeting Summary Minutes
December 10, 1998**

Call to Order

Board Chair Paul Miller called the meeting to order at 2:42 p.m. in Building 7 of Highline Community College, 2400 S. 240th, Des Moines, Washington.

Roll Call

Chair

(P) Paul Miller, City of Tacoma Councilmember

Vice Chairs

(P) Dave Earling, City of Edmonds Councilmember

(A) Greg Nickels, King County Councilmember

Board Members

(P) 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

(A) Jane Hague, King County Councilmember

(A) 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

(A) Cynthia Sullivan, King County Councilmember

(P) Doug Sutherland, Pierce County Executive

(P) Jim White, City of Kent Mayor

Marcia Walker, Board Administrator, indicated a quorum of the Board was not yet present at roll call.

The following Board member arrived after roll call:

Rob McKenna, King County Councilmember

Public Comment

The following individuals presented comments to the Board:

Mr. Philip Grega

Mr. Gerald Fine, attorney for Washington Cedar

Comments are on file with the Board Administrator.

(Board member McKenna arrived at this time.)

Report of the Chair

Mr. Miller addressed Sound Transit's bond sale stating that the agency received the highest rating of Aa from Standard & Poor's. Moody's gave the agency an A1 rating, with a positive outlook. He stated that yesterday Sound Transit went to the bond market in New York and sold its first bond measure. The agency sold \$350 million in bonds at a combined interest rate of 4.97%. The sale is a significant savings over the 6% interest rate anticipated in Sound Move.

Executive Director Report

None.

Consent Agenda Items

October 22, 1998 Board Meeting Minutes

The Board of the Central Puget Sound Regional Transit Authority does hereby approve the voucher certification for the period October 1 through October 31, 1998 totaling \$15,539,708.08

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

Mr. McKenna asked to have the October 22, 1998 Board meeting minutes corrected to reflect his position as King County Councilmember.

Mr. Enslow asked to have the October 22, 1998 Board meeting minutes corrected to reflect his position as a City of Sumner Councilmember.

The motion to approve the consent agenda, with amendments to the October 22, 1998 minutes, was carried by the unanimous vote of all Board members present.

Action Items

Motion No. M98-90 - Selecting Site 1 for the parking garage to serve the Kent commuter rail station

Mr. Miller indicated to the Board that environmental work had been done in association with the expanded site and would be shared in executive session.

Ms. Val Batey, Project Development Manager for Sounder Commuter Rail, addressed the Kent commuter rail station parking garage. She stated that at the October 22, 1998 Board meeting, staff was asked to pursue purchasing all property owned by Washington Cedar (Site 1A) instead of Site 1, and the results of the investigation would be shared with the Board in executive session. Ms. Batey informed the Board that the agency has received its Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) from the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) on Site 1 for the garage.

Mr. Miller asked if an amendment to the environmental review would have to be completed if Site 1A were purchased.

Ms. Batey replied that the FONSI only covers the 2.4 acres included in Site 1. Selecting the 5.17 acres included in Site 1A would involve asking the FTA for a new FONSI.

Mr. Jim White expressed his support for Site 1 and pledged that the City of Kent will work with Washington Cedar to market the rest of their property.

Mr. McKenna questioned whether an environmental analysis of Site 1A had been completed.

Mr. Larry Ellington, Property Agent for Real Estate and Facilities, replied that the purpose of the executive session is to discuss the environmental review and the market analysis in terms of cost for land acquisition.

Mr. McKenna mentioned that there would be more surface area and building the garage could be deferred until a later date, if Site 1A was purchased.

Ms. Batey stated that the City of Kent has expressed a strong desire to have a parking structure for the majority of the parking at this station. She said that building a large surface parking area and deferring the parking structure to a

later date would change some of the expectations in the City of Kent.

Mr. McKenna asked what the process would be for studying the environmental issues and the market situation of Site 1A if we adopt Motion No. M98-90.

Ms. Batey stated that we would have to complete the environmental review and work with the FTA to obtain a FONSI. We would have to look at access, contamination, and clean-up issues.

Mr. McKenna stated that the Board adopted Motion No. M98-73 on October 22, 1998, which stated Sites 1 and 1A were preferred and asked staff to report back on potential costs and environmental contamination issues associated with Site 1A.

Ms. Batey indicated that the report would be provided in executive session.

Mr. White stated that his personal preference would be for Sound Transit to acquire all of this property, but he does not want to slow the process. If Sound Transit cannot make that work, the City of Kent will work with private developers and the property owner to meet their needs. It is vital to the City of Kent, to have some input into the development that could occur there. To consider surface parking would raise more than a concern in downtown Kent. The public and the city council have been clear that they don't want to cover downtown Kent with parking lots.

Ms. Gates expressed concern that a quorum might not be present at the end of the meeting. She suggested that since the information to be discussed in executive session is related to Site 1A, the Board should go ahead and select Site 1 as the preferred site.

It was moved by Mr. Gates and seconded by Mr. Enslow that Site 1 be chosen as the preferred site, and that the issue of Site 1A and any additional discussion, including an executive session if needed, be moved to the end of the agenda.

Mr. Miller indicated that the Board would proceed with the balance of the action items on the agenda and then take action on Motion M98-90.

Resolution No. R98-52 - Amending the legal description of the authority's district boundary effective January 1, 1999

It was moved by Mr. Drewel, seconded by Mr. Earling and carried by the unanimous vote of all Board members present that Resolution No. R98-52 be approved as presented.

Finance Committee Recommendations

Resolution No. R98-51 - Authorizing the Executive Director to execute a Project Agreement with the Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) for design and construction services for the South Hill Park and Ride Lot Project in the amount of \$5,607,000

It was moved by Mr. Drewel, seconded by Ms. Gates, and carried by the unanimous vote of all Board members present that Resolution No. R98-51 be approved as presented.

Motion No. M98-88 - Amending Contract RTA/CR 22-97 with Huckell/Weinman Associates, Inc., for the Everett-to-Seattle commuter rail environmental impact statement (EIS), in an amount not to exceed \$1,396,686

It was moved by Mr. Drewel, seconded by Ms. Gates and carried by the unanimous vote of all Board members present that Motion No. M98-88 be approved as presented.

Executive Committee Recommendations

Motion No. M98-87 - Accepting the findings of the HOV/TSM (High Occupancy Vehicle/Transportation System Management) Committee, directing Sound Transit to proceed with implementation of the HOV direct access programs and directing that the project evaluation process recommended by the HOV/TSM Committee be applied to all projects to the extent possible

It was moved by Mr. Drewel and seconded by Ms. Gates that Motion No. M98-87 be approved as presented.

Mr. Russell gave an overview of the HOV/TSM Committee findings and asked that the Board approve the motion.

Mr. Miller thanked Mr. Russell for his and the Committee's excellent work.

The motion to approve Motion No. M98-88 was carried by the unanimous vote of all Board members present.

Motion No. M98-89 - Appointing a new member to the Citizen Oversight Panel

It was moved by Mr. Sutherland, seconded by Mr. Russell and carried by the unanimous vote of all Board members present that Motion No. M98-89 appointing Bertha Eades to the Citizen Oversight Panel, be approved as presented.

Motion No. M98-90

Convene Executive Session

The Board adjourned into executive session at 3:20 p.m.

The Board reconvened at 3:50 p.m.

Mr. McKenna requested an amendment to Motion M98-90 and asked Mr. Desmond Brown, Chief Legal Counsel, to read the amendment.

Mr. Brown read the amendment as follows: after the word "selected": "...for the parking garage. Sound Transit shall work cooperatively with the City of Kent and other applicable agencies to study acquisition of additional property adjacent to Site 1 to support the commuter rail facilities and city transportation and economic development needs...."

It was moved by Mr. McKenna, seconded by Mr. Sutherland and carried by the unanimous vote of all Board members present that the amendment, as read by Mr. Brown, be approved.

The motion to approve Motion No. M98-90, as amended, was carried by the unanimous vote of all Board members present.

Committee Reports

Finance Committee

Report of December 3, 1998 Meeting

Ms. Gates thanked the Finance Committee members for working hard to secure the bond ratings and the favorable interest rate. She stated that with the exception of the two action items previously discussed, this concluded her report.

Public and Government Affairs Committee

Report of December 4, 1998 Meeting

Mr. Earling reported that he traveled with Mr. Miller, Mr. Bob White, and Ms. Dezarn, to Washington, D.C. during the last few weeks and had a good meeting with Washington State's delegation staff and with Mr. Gordon Linton with the FTA, in which Mayor Schell participated.

Mr. Earling stated that Mr. Nickels, Mr. Miller, and himself met with newly elected Representative Mr. Jay Inslee from the first district. Mr. Inslee is very proactive toward transit, had very positive things to say, and wants to become involved in issues related to Sound Transit.

Mr. Earling mentioned that yesterday some of the Board members and staff from Pierce Transit, Community Transit, Metro, and Sound Transit met to begin working on an agreement on how to better assemble bus proposals for the next federal appropriations cycle.

Mr. Earling stated that some of the property owners in the Link light rail alignment have been notified that there is some potential for their property and our project. Prior to the notification being sent, letters went to local legislators in those districts so they would be aware. This is a policy we want to maintain throughout the project.

Executive Committee

Report of December 4, 1998 Meeting

Mr. Miller reported that the Executive Committee took action to recommend Board approval of the two action items presented today. The Committee was also given a report on fare policy alternatives, as well as a presentation from staff on construction management services for commuter rail, and environmental assessment alternatives for the Bellevue Transportation Center.

Items for Discussion and Deliberation

Sound Transit's Fare Policy

Ms. Barbara Gilliland, Systems Integration Program Manager for Regional Express, focused her presentation on the ride free area in downtown Seattle and public outreach. She stated that the City of Seattle pays Metro for operation of the ride free zone in downtown Seattle. She stated that Board members have received a copy of the presentation given to the Executive Committee and that on page nine is a suggestion of how Sound Transit would treat a ride free concept (copy on file). Ms. Gilliland described the public outreach program being proposed for the fare policy.

Mr. Enslow questioned the equity of the boundaries for the zonal fares.

Ms. Gilliland stated that staff has evaluated a series of different ways to charge fares, including flat fares. The zonal system does create some happenstances where people will pay a higher fare for a short trip.

Mr. McKenna mentioned that during the presentation to the Finance Committee, he had suggested waiting on the public outreach and combining it with the outreach for Regional Express routes. This would make it possible to give the public more information at one time.

Mr. Earling stated that Mr. McKenna's comments came to the PGA Committee. The Committee was concerned that perhaps ST would be trying to give the public too much information on too many subjects, and therefore wouldn't get enough discussion on one subject. He indicated that he would be supportive of the distribution of materials and making mention of the fare policy issue at the routing meetings.

Mr. McKenna explained that he didn't want to cancel the public outreach. He was suggesting that there is a good chance more people will turn out for the route hearings, so there would be the opportunity for additional input. He

said his question was whether the decision needs to be made in February or if it can be postponed until April when the routing decision is made.

Committee Assignments

Mr. Miller stated that on December 4, 1998 the Executive Committee voted on committee assignments. These remained the same, with Mr. Enslow added to the Finance Committee. He mentioned that a Real Estate/Transit-Oriented Development Subcommittee has been formed and will be chaired by Ms. Sullivan.

Other Business

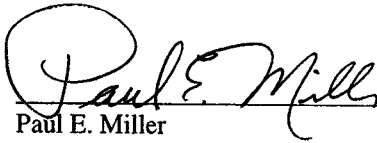
None.

Next Meeting

Thursday, January 14, 1999
2:30 to 4:30 p.m.
Tacoma Public Library - Olympic Room
1102 Tacoma Avenue South
Tacoma, Washington

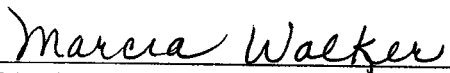
Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 4:15 p.m.



Paul E. Miller
Board Chair

ATTEST:



Marcia Walker
Board Administrator

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