

**Sound Transit
Board Meeting Summary Minutes
January 27, 2000**

Call to Order

Board Chair Dave Earling called the meeting to order at 2:50 p.m. in the Sound Transit Board Room at Union Station, 401 South Jackson Street, Seattle, Washington.

Roll Call

Chair

(P) Dave Earling, City of Edmonds Councilmember

Vice Chairs

(A) Greg Nickels, King County Councilmember

(A) Doug Sutherland, Pierce County Executive

Board Members

(A) Ann Davis, City of Lakewood Councilmember

(A) 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

(A) Ed Hansen, City of Everett Mayor

(A) Richard McIver, City of Seattle Councilmember

(A) Rob McKenna, King County Councilmember

(P) Sid Morrison, WSDOT Secretary

(A) Paul Schell, City of Seattle Mayor

(P) Ron Sims, King County Executive

(P) Cynthia Sullivan, King County Councilmember

(P) Jim White, City of Kent Mayor

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

The following Board member arrived after roll call:

Ron Sims, King County Executive

Introductions

Mr. Earling introduced prospective Board members Mr. Jack Crawford, City of Kenmore Deputy Mayor, and Mr. Kevin Phelps, City of Tacoma Councilmember. He indicated that the Board members' appointments from the Pierce and King County Councils are anticipated for February 8 and February 14, respectively.

Public Comment

None.

Report of the Chair

Mr. Earling reported that the Board would hold an executive session to discuss negotiations of the capital agreement with Burlington Northern Santa Fe (BNSF). He stated that there would be no action taken as a result of that executive session.

Mr. Earling indicated that the Board would be holding a workshop on Friday, February 4 to discuss the 2000 work program and Phase II planning. As a result there would be no Executive and Government Affairs Committee meetings that day.

Finally, Mr. Earling indicated that a list of proposed committee assignments had been included in Board members' packets, reflecting comments he received from Board members (copy on file).

Executive Director Report

Mr. White asked Ms. Agnes Govern, Director of Regional Express, to provide an update on transit ridership.

Ms. Govern referred Board members to the Sound Transit (ST) Express Ridership Report (copy on file). She explained that the ridership statistics were for the first ten weeks of ST Express service, from September 19, 1999 to the end of the year.

ST Express carried almost three-quarters of a million passengers, or 13,000 riders daily. The ridership has increased each month. At this point, Ms. Govern said that it appears the projection of 18,000 daily boardings by the end of the year 2000 would be achievable.

Ms. Govern went on to say that the early results are for the first phase of service. As the agency phases in additional components, such as more routes, more buses, more frequent service, park-and-ride lots, transit centers and high occupancy vehicle (HOV) access ramps, staff expects ridership to grow.

Ms. Govern indicated that the last page of the document shows a wide variation of ridership per route. These variations tend to place the routes into two categories: routes that were previously operated by other transit agencies and show the highest ridership now, and new routes that are in the early ridership stage.

Ms. Govern indicated the need to do targeted marketing: in Snohomish County, where there is strong ridership in the peak hour peak direction, there is a need to provide a better understanding of the two-way all day nature of the service; in Pierce County and West Seattle, targeted marketing to employers makes sense, as Sound Transit has made service adjustments to begin next month, and stops to serve key employment centers have been added.

Ms. Govern stated that future ridership reports will be provided quarterly and will include additional information, such as revenue.

Ms. Govern concluded by expressing appreciation to Pierce Transit, King County Metro, Everett Transit and Community Transit.

Legislative Report

Mr. Earling reported that the state legislature is concluding its third week in session. ST has been visible and active in Olympia. The sales tax credit bills were introduced into both Houses this past week with

bipartisan support by Senate sponsors Thibideau and Horn, and Representatives Summers and Fisher in the House. Mr. Earling indicated that the hearings are expected to occur the week following, and stated that staff and Board members are inviting business and labor representatives to join Sound Transit in testifying. He stated that he might be asking for help from Board members as well.

(Board member Sims arrived at this time.)

Mr. Earling stated that a guide to Sound Transit and copies of the agency's third annual report have been provided to all legislators in Olympia.

Mr. Earling pointed out that several high-occupancy vehicle (HOV) bills have been introduced in the legislature. The ST Board's current policy opposes any changes to the HOV system Sound Transit's lobbyists have been instructed accordingly, and Mr. Earling stated that that position would be continued until it is changed by the Board. He asked that Board members contact him with questions or concerns.

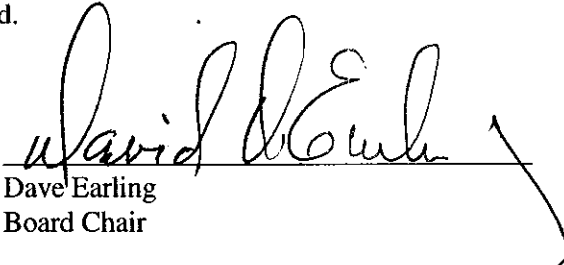
Mr. Morrison stated that there was an article in a Seattle newspaper about changes in WSDOT's policies regarding HOV lanes. He indicated that the only change is a willingness to gather new data relative to HOV use. WSDOT supports the ST Board position because of the importance of those lanes to transit 24 hours a day. He added his hope that the ST Board would not change its position.

Mr. Earling reported that on the federal side, Sound Transit is looking for significant funding for the Link light rail system, and hopes to have the full funding grant agreement this year. On February 7 the President would be releasing his 2001 budget request. He stated his optimism about the agency's request for significant funding for Link and his hope that ST's system would be characterized as one of the most promising in the United States as it was last year.

Executive Session


At 3:03 p.m., the Board convened an executive session to discuss negotiations of the capital agreement with BNSF.

The Board reconvened open session at 3:55 and adjourned.



Dave Earling
Board Chair

ATTEST:



Marcia Walker
Board Administrator