

SOUND TRANSIT BOARD MEETING
Summary Minutes
May 20, 2004

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 1:13 p.m. by Chair John Ladenburg in the Sound Transit Board Room, 401 South Jackson Street, Seattle, Washington.

Roll Call

Chair

(P) John Ladenburg, Pierce County Executive

Vice Chairs

(P) Greg Nickels, City of Seattle Mayor

(P) Mark Olson, Everett City Councilmember

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| (P) Fred Butler, Issaquah Deputy Council President | (P) Kevin Phelps, Tacoma City Councilmember |
| (P) Jack Crawford, Kenmore City Councilmember | (P) Larry Phillips, King County Council Chair |
| (P) David Enslow, Sumner City Councilmember | (P) Aaron Reardon, Snohomish County Executive |
| (A) Doug MacDonald, WSDOT Secretary | (P) Ron Sims, King County Executive |
| (P) Connie Marshall, City of Bellevue Mayor | (P) Jack Start, Mill Creek City Councilmember |
| (P) Richard McIver, Seattle City Councilmember | (P) Claudia Thomas, Lakewood City Councilmember |
| (P) Julia Patterson, King County Councilmember | (A) Pete von Reichbauer, King County Council Vice Chair |
| (P) Dwight Pelz, King County Councilmember | |

Ms. Marcia Walker, Board Administrator, indicated a quorum of the Board was present at roll call.

The following Board members arrived after roll call:

Greg Nickels
Julia Patterson
Dwight Pelz
Larry Phillips
Aaron Reardon
Ron Sims

Introduction

Chair Ladenburg welcomed Mr. Jack Start, City Councilmember from Mill Creek, who was joining the Sound Transit Board.

Public Comment

The following individuals presented comments to the Board. Comments are on file with the Board Administrator.

Mr. Frederick Hart, University District Chamber of Commerce
Mr. Jonathan Dubman, Northlake Community Club and the SR520 Advisory Committee
Mr. Jay Regenstreif
Ms. Nancy Bocek, Roosevelt Neighbors Alliance
Mr. Charles Hamilton, Capitol Hill Chamber of Commerce, President
Mr. Walter Scott

Mr. Larry Sinnott, Northeast District Council/Ravenna-Bryant Community Association
Mr. Larry Fogdall
Mr. Malcolm Hickey
Ms. Sue Bordall
Mr. Tim Gould

The following Board members arrived during public comment:

Ron Sims
Greg Nickels
Aaron Reardon

Report of the Chair

Mr. Ladenburg advised that he had participated in the Seattle Chamber's visit to Munich. He stated that the transportation system in Munich was wonderful and included light rail, rail, subways, bus, and an extensive bike trail system.

Mr. Ladenburg congratulated Board member Claudia Thomas for being the first recipient of the Jack Asby Award. He explained that the award was established by Pierce College and the Pierce College Foundation in memory of Jack Asby, a long-time Lakewood activist. The award honors volunteerism, advocacy for higher education, and bringing visibility to Pierce College's role in helping improve the community.

Chief Executive Officer Report

Ms. Joni Earl introduced Mr. Ahmad Fazel, Director of Link Light Rail, who gave a presentation concerning the bids received for the Beacon Hill tunnel.

Mr. Fazel stated that Sound Transit received two bids for the Beacon Hill tunnel construction. He explained that a two-phase, pre-qualification, low-bid procurement process was used to select the contractor. First, four proposals were received and three contractors were pre-qualified. Of those three, two contractors submitted bids. He advised that the engineer's estimate was \$238 million and the apparent low bid was \$279 million. In preliminary comparisons between the engineer's estimate and the bids, staff has not discovered any one reason to explain why the bids were higher.

(Board members Patterson and Phillips arrived at this time.)

Consent Agenda

Minutes of the April 8, 2004, Sound Transit Board meeting

Voucher Certification for April 1 through April 15, 2004

Voucher Certification for April 16 through April 30, 2004

Motion No. M2004-43 – Appointing Mary McCumber to the Citizen Oversight Panel for a term of four years, beginning May 2004 and expiring May 2008

Motion No. M2004-42 – Authorizing the Chief Executive Officer to execute Memorandums of Understanding establishing guiding principles for cooperative funding with the cities of Bothell and

Kenmore for continued implementation of the preferred alternatives, for the SR 522 HOV Enhancements Project

Motion No. M2004-45 – Authorizing the Chief Executive Officer to execute an Interagency Agreement with the City of Tacoma providing for the City to transfer state Freight Mobility Strategic Investment Board grant funds to Sound Transit for the rail work component of the D Street Rail Grade Separation Project

Motion No. M2004-46 – Authorizing the Chief Executive Officer to enter into an Interagency Agreement between Sound Transit and the Port of Tacoma that will provide previously agreed upon partial funding in the amount of \$2,850,000 for the rail component of the D Street Rail Grade Separation Project

Resolution No. R2004-06 – Adopting an environmental policy

It was moved by Mr. Sims, seconded by Mr. Phelps, and carried by the unanimous vote of all Board members present that the Consent Agenda be approved as presented.

Action Item

Resolution No. R2004-08 – Identifying the preferred route, profiles, and station locations for the North Link Light Rail Project

It was moved by Mr. Nickels and seconded by Mr. Phelps that Resolution No. R2004-08 be approved as presented.

Mr. Ladenburg indicated that the Board would consider Amendments from Board members (copies on file).

Amendment #3

It was moved by Mr. Nickels and seconded by Mr. McIver that Amendment #3 be approved as presented, amending Page 5, Section C, to read as follows:

The tunnel route would then cross the ship canal via the modified Montlake route with a cut-and-cover crossover track and station at Husky Stadium and a second cut-and-cover station under Brooklyn Avenue NE south of NE 45th Street. Providing two stations in the University District is important to serve the residents, employers, and retail businesses in the surrounding areas, as well as the University of Washington. Rail ridership forecasts show high daily boardings for both a north and a south station in the University District. Preliminary engineering of the Stadium station shall include grade-separated pedestrian crossings of Montlake Boulevard NE, NE Pacific Place, and NE Pacific Street to the University of Washington's main campus and medical center complex. Preliminary engineering of Brooklyn Station shall include additional study of the site environmental conditions. The cost and feasibility of including an additional station entrance north of NE 45th Street with underground pedestrian connection to Brooklyn Station shall be analyzed.

Mr. Nickels advised the Board that Amendment #3 would amend the section entitled "University District Stations and Pedestrian Connections." The amendment selects the south Brooklyn station site, requests an additional study of the site environmental conditions, and asks staff to look into an additional station entrance north of NE 45th Street with an underground pedestrian connection.

Following discussion, Mr. Nickels suggested deleting the last sentence of the amendment which read, "The cost and feasibility of including an additional station entrance north of NE 45th Street with underground pedestrian connection to Brooklyn station shall be analyzed."

The motion to approve Amendment #3, with the last sentence deleted, was carried by the unanimous vote of all Board members present.

Amendment #1 and #2

Ms. Marshall stated her intention with Amendments 1 and 2 was to mitigate the impacts to Bonney Watson Funeral Home. After speaking with Mr. Desmond Brown, General Counsel, she decided to offer only Amendment #2.

It was moved by Ms. Marshall and seconded by Mr. McIver that Amendment #2 be approved as presented, amending Page 5, Section B, to read as follows:

The light rail route would then proceed north to a cut-and-cover station and crossover track beneath Nagle Place south of East John Street on Capitol Hill. The Capitol Hill station would serve the dense residential neighborhoods as well as the commercial activities along Broadway and major institutions such as Seattle Central Community College and Group Health Cooperative. Impacts to adjacent businesses, residents, and Cal Anderson Park shall be addressed consistent with Section 4 of this resolution. The cost and feasibility of including an additional station entrance on the west side of Broadway at the Seattle Central Community College campus shall be analyzed. The cost and feasibility of including structured parking adjacent to the Bonney Watson Funeral Home shall be analyzed consistent with the Sound Transit Scope Control Policy and federal and state laws.

The motion to approve Amendment #2 was carried by the unanimous vote of all Board members present.

Amendment #5

It was moved by Mr. Nickels and seconded by Mr. Sims that Amendment #5 be approved as presented, amending Page 6, Section F, to read as follows:

North of Roosevelt, the light rail line would continue along the east side of Interstate-5 staying west of the parallel city streets to Northgate. The elevated Northgate station would be located east of 1st Avenue NE, near NE 103rd Street. This station would provide access to bus transfers at the Northgate Transit Center and to adjacent park-and ride facilities. The Northgate station shall be integrated with the surrounding development where feasible, to foster effective transit-oriented development, in accordance with Section 3. Sound Transit staff shall work with King County, the City of Seattle, WSDOT, and other affected property owners to refine Northgate station location, access, and design issues and examine associated cost implications. Sound Transit staff shall report to the Sound Transit Board on these issues within four months.

The motion to approve Amendment #5 was carried by the unanimous vote of all Board members present.

Amendment #4

It was moved by Mr. Nickels and seconded by Mr. Pelz that Amendment #4 be approved as presented, amending Page 6, Section E, to read as follows:

North of the University District through the Roosevelt neighborhood, the light rail route should either continue in a tunnel to a cut-and-cover station near 12th Avenue NE and NE 65th Street and remain in a tunnel until reaching a portal location inside Washington State Department of Transportation right-of-way immediately north of the Lake City Way interchange with Interstate-5; or continue in a tunnel to a portal south of Ravenna Boulevard NE and an elevated station west of 8th Avenue NE and south of NE 65th Street that would be adjacent to the existing park-and-ride lot. Sound Transit staff shall carry both alignments through preliminary engineering to optimize routes, identify and reduce displacement impacts, and develop 30% design cost estimates.

The motion to approve Amendment #4 was carried by the majority vote of Board members present, with Board members Butler, Patterson, Reardon, and Thomas voting in the minority.

The motion to approve Resolution No. R2004-08, as amended, was carried by the unanimous vote of all Board members present.

Discussion/Possible Action

Regional Transportation Investment District (RTID) Joint Ballot

Mr. Ladenburg advised that recent polling by the funders group indicated a ballot measure would not be successful this year. The group is not willing to fund a campaign, which means it is not likely there will be an RTID ballot issue this November. He indicated that some Board members think it may be possible to have a joint ballot issue in the future.

Mr. Ladenburg expressed his belief that the regional transportation issue is not dead and should continue to be discussed.

Ms. Patterson expressed appreciation for Mr. Ladenburg's optimism. She would like the Board to continue to analyze the feasibility of a partnership with the RTID.

Committee Reports

Executive Committee

Mr. Olson commented that in addition to the items the Board acted on today, the Executive Committee received a report on the Long-Range Vision from Paul Matsuoka, Policy and Planning Officer, and Eli Cooper from the Puget Sound Regional Council, at its May 6, 2004, meeting.

Finance Committee

Mr. Phelps reported on the April 15, May 6, and May 20, 2004, Finance Committee meetings. He announced that the committee learned that the agency's bond rating from Standard & Poor's is AA; Moody's rating is A+.

The committee approved Motion No. M2004-38, executing an Interagency Project Agreement with Pierce Transit to manage implementation of the Downtown Tacoma Transit Corridor Technology Project; Motion No. M2004-37, executing a contract amendment with KPFF to provide additional environmental documentation/preliminary engineering services for the Issaquah Transit Center project; Motion No. M2004-40, executing a sole-source contract amendment with Stacy and Witbeck, Inc. to fund repairs to stabilize the earthfill embankment

structure and Lock & Load wall system at the Reservation Junction to Freighthouse Square commuter rail track project; Motion No. M2004-41, executing an amendment to the existing sole-source contract with HNTB Corporation to continue to provide additional independent engineering services for Sounder Commuter Rail's Reservation Junction to Freighthouse Square retained earth fill embankment and track bed structure; Motion No. M2004-26, executing an Interagency Agreement with the City of Redmond to provide the design, installation, equipment procurement, and testing of Transit Signal Priority improvements; Motion No. M2004-47, executing a contract amendment with KPFF to provide design services during construction of the Pine Street Stub Tunnel in the Central Link Light Rail Initial Segment Project; and Motion No. M2004-50, executing a contract amendment with Cocker Fennessy, Inc. to continue to provide strategic communications planning, community relations and public affairs assistance for 2004 and the remaining optional years.

Central Link Oversight Committee

Mr. Pelz reported that at the meeting held earlier in the day, the Central Link Oversight Committee members discussed safety features on light rail, particularly the at-grade segment on Martin Luther King, Jr. Way.

Other Business

None.


Next Meeting

Thursday, May 27, 2004
1:00 to 3:00 p.m.
Union Station Board Room
Seattle, Washington

Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 3:39 p.m.

ATTEST:


Marcia Walker
Board Administrator


John W. Ladenburg
Board Chair