

SOUND TRANSIT EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING
Summary Minutes
April 3, 2008

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 10:38 a.m. by Chair Greg Nickels in the Ruth Fisher Boardroom, 401 South Jackson Street, Seattle, Washington.

Roll Call

Chair

(P) *Greg Nickels, Seattle Mayor*

Vice Chairs

(A) *Aaron Reardon, Snohomish County Executive*

(P) *Claudia Thomas, Lakewood Councilmember*

(A) *Fred Butler, Issaquah Deputy Council President*

(P) *Paula Hammond, WSDOT Secretary*

(P) *John W. Ladenburg, Pierce County Executive*

(P) *Julia Patterson, King County Council Chair*

(P) *Larry Phillips, King County Councilmember*

(A) *Ron Sims, King County Executive*

Board Administrator Marcia Walker announced that a quorum of the committee was present at roll call.

Report of the Chair

Chair Nickels announced that at the Board meeting on March 27, 2008, the Washington State Department of Transportation and Sound Transit staff gave a presentation on HOV lane capacity related to the ST 2020 Draft plan. He also reported on the Intercity Study Mission in Austin, Texas, which he and other boardmembers recently attended.

Chief Executive Officer's Report

Ms. Earl updated the Board on the study being performed in conjunction with Puget Sound Regional Council on the Eastside BNSF Rail Corridor. The Port of Seattle Commission has invited Sound Transit to attend their meeting on Tuesday, April 8; a draft scope of work on the corridor has been developed and meetings are being coordinated to bring the involved parties together.

Boardmembers Patterson and Phillips announced that they have been working together on an easement for the trail portion of the corridor; Boardmember Patterson complimented the state legislature for passing legislation that directs the parties to perform the study. She also announced that she and other boardmembers that attended the mission in Austin had a chance to see a Diesel Multiple Unit train.

ST 2020 Draft Plan Discussion

Mayor Nickels opened discussion on the ST 2020 draft plan. Referring to a chart showing the capital costs and projected project delivery dates based on 2008 and 2010 election years, he noted that delaying a vote will affect the schedule in delivering projects around the region. Policy and Planning Officer Greg Walker added that the chart assumes that revenue growth is enough to cover any cost increases, such as inflation.

Office of Policy, Planning, and Public Affairs Executive Director Ric Ilgenfritz noted that the expansion of bus services is constrained by the need to expand bus base capacity. Subsequently, delaying the

construction of a new bus base will delay the expansion of additional bus services. Mr. Walker answered questions from Boardmember Hammond regarding King County Metro's bus base capacity. Ms. Earl advised that the newly formed Transit Operations Task Force plans to discuss bus base capacity constraints in the region.

The committee discussed right of way preservation for Link Light Rail in the south corridor. Mr. Walker advised that a memo regarding this issue is being drafted and will be delivered to boardmembers shortly.

Chair Nickels explained the purpose of today's discussion: to take stock of where the Board is on the ST 2020 planning process; review areas of agreement; identify where additional work is needed; and determine whether the committee can offer the full Board advice about the next steps. He summarized the work to date and reviewed the key areas of agreement amongst boardmembers.

During a discussion of right of way preservation for Link Light Rail, Boardmember Patterson asked staff to provide an approximation of the cost of constructing light rail in those areas where right of way would be preserved, and when it might be appropriate for the Board to propose a subsequent transit to provide the funding.

Chair Nickels called upon Ms. Earl to provide a background on a potential eastside BNSF passenger rail partnership. The committee discussed contributing funds towards the partnership, and how far the rail line might extend.

The committee discussed whether the Board should propose a 0.4% or 0.5% sales tax increase to fund future projects. They also discussed the timing of such a proposal, and whether it is appropriate at this time. Mr. Walker and Mr. Ilgenfritz answered questions from the committee regarding the differences in the sales tax rates in terms of what the extra 0.1% would fund.

The committee discussed service planning, as well as the demand for and ability to provide additional bus services around the region. They also discussed the feasibility of putting bus rapid transit in the HOV freeway lanes.

The committee discussed the potential expansion of Sounder Commuter Rail service in the south corridor. Boardmember Ladenburg provided comments against an extension of Sounder service to Dupont. Ms. Earl announced that Sound Transit is scheduled to meet next week with officials from BNSF regarding a potential expansion of Sounder service.

Action Item

Minutes from the March 6, 2008 Executive Committee meeting

It was moved by Boardmember Ladenburg, seconded by Boardmember Thomas, and carried by the unanimous vote of all members present that the consent agenda be approved as presented.

Other Business

None.

Executive Session

None.

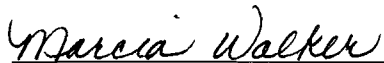
Next Meeting

Thursday, May 1, 2008
10:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.
Ruth Fisher Boardroom

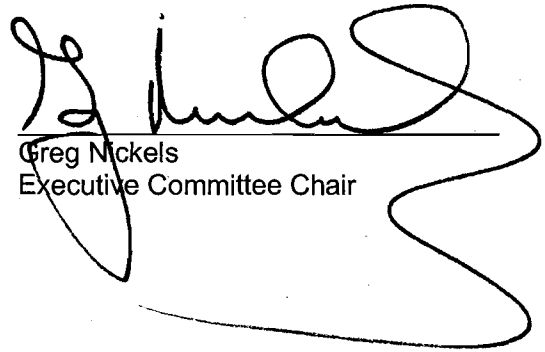
Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 11:57 a.m.

ATTEST:



Marcia Walker
Board Administrator



Greg Nickels
Executive Committee Chair