

SOUND TRANSIT BOARD MEETING
Summary Minutes
April 24, 2008

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 1:08 p.m. by Chair Greg Nickels, in the Ruth Fisher Boardroom, 401 South Jackson Street, Seattle, Washington.

Roll Call

Chair

(P) *Greg Nickels, City of Seattle Mayor*

Vice Chairs

(P) *Aaron Reardon, Snohomish County Executive*

(P) *Claudia Thomas, Lakewood Councilmember*

(P) *Julie Anderson, Tacoma City Councilmember*
(P) *Mary-Alyce Burleigh, Kirkland Councilmember*
(P) *Fred Butler, Issaquah Deputy Council President*
(P) *Richard Conlin, Seattle Councilmember*
(P) *Dow Constantine, King County Council Vice Chair*
(P) *Deanna Dawson, Edmonds Councilmember*
(P) *David Enslow, City of Sumner Mayor*
(P) *Paula Hammond, WSDOT Secretary*

(P) *John Ladenburg, Pierce County Executive*
(P) *John Marchione, City of Redmond Mayor*
(P) *Julia Patterson, King County Council Chair*
(P) *Larry Phillips, King County Council Chair*
(P) *Paul Roberts, Everett Councilmember*
(P) *Ron Sims, King County Executive*
(P) *Pete von Reichbauer, King County Councilmember*

Ms. Katie Weiss, Board Coordinator announced that a quorum of the Board was present at roll call.

Report of the Chair

Chair Nickels announced that the Board would be working from a revised agenda, a report from John Howell of the Expert Review Panel has been added.

Chair Nickels also announced that Joni Earl, CEO, could not attend today's meeting and that Ric Ilgenfritz, Executive Director of Policy, Planning and Public Affairs was present in her place.

Chief Executive Officer's Report

Mr. Ilgenfritz announced that the agency celebrated Earth Day by participating in an event with the Sierra Club and King County Metro; Sound Transit provided free ride passes that the Sierra Club gave to people to encourage them to reduce their carbon footprint. The agency also had an Earth Day festival at the Sound Transit offices to encourage sustainability at work.

Mr. Ilgenfritz also announced that the Transit Operations Task Force held its first meeting earlier today; Boardmember Constantine will be updating the Board periodically on the work of that Task Force.

Mr. Ilgenfritz reported that there was a tour of the Airport Link Project and the Port of Seattle Road Project with Congressman Adam Smith.

Mr. Ilgenfritz also invited the Board and members of the public to participate in the Kingsgate Park & Ride and Totem Lake Facility community celebration this Saturday from 11:00-1:00pm.

Public Comment

Jim Ferrell, Federal Way Deputy Mayor
Claudia Balducci
John Caulfield, Mountlake Terrace City Manager
Michelle Robles, Mountlake Terrace Councilmember
John Zambrano, Mountlake Terrace Councilmember
Steve Thomsen, Snohomish County Public Works Director
Anthony Trifiletti
Rob Johnson
Patrick D. McMahan
Sara Nikolic
David Hiller
Will Knedlik
Loren Simmonds, City of Lynnwood Council President

Expert Review Panel Report

John Howell, Expert Review Panel Administrator, presented a letter to the Board. He began by giving some background on the Expert Review Panel; he then presented the Panel's comments from its March meeting and highlighted three key topics.

The first topic was agreement on scopes with local jurisdictions and BNSF; the panel felt the work was very important and noted three areas of concern. The difference in scope with the City of Bellevue needs to be resolved, and scope letters with jurisdictions where new projects were added should be completed in addition to a letter of Agreement with BNSF for service under the proposed package.

The second topic was the ST2 financial plan revisions; the Expert Review Panel agreed with the greater emphasis on year of expenditure dollars and on clearly separating the Sound Move and ST2 revenues and expenses. Mr. Howell reported that the Expert Review Panel feels the methodology for updating costs in the ST2 financial plan is sound.

The third topic was the current study of the WSDOT I-90 bridge and its ability to accommodate light rail. He reported that a technical review committee was formed to look at some of the technical work and will report on their findings in June. He also commented that the scope of the work is thorough, and that the technical review committee is a good practice. He asked that Sound Transit staff keep the Board well informed of the committee's findings to allow the Board time to consider the findings.

He stated that if the Board does choose to go to a 2008 ballot, the Expert Review Panel would be meeting again prior to the time a decision would be made.

Discussion / Direction on ST2 Plan

Chair Nickels announced that if a decision is made during the discussion today, it would be to advance the draft plans for public comment and work with PSRC and the Expert Review Panel. Ric Ilgenfritz, Executive Director of Policy, Planning and Public Affairs, and Greg Walker, Chief

Policy & Planning Officer presented a PowerPoint on the draft package with options; including next steps for a .4 and .5 sales tax increase.

Mr. Ilgenfritz explained that the materials show proposed changes to the ST2 plan that was adopted by the Board last year. He explained that should the Board decide to proceed, an action has been prepared to move that work forward and staff is prepared to start public involvement work and work with the Expert Review Panel and the Puget Sound Regional Council in conducting technical and conformity reviews.

Boardmember Ladenburg asked that the words "Tacoma Link Extension Match" be used instead of listing a specific connection to Tacoma General Hospital to indicate funding partnerships that could be achieved to expand Tacoma Link.

Boardmember Patterson reminded the Board that negotiations with BNSF for Sounder operations for future service are still taking place and that the scope difference with the City of Bellevue needs to be worked on.

Boardmember Enslow was interested in looking at ways to disperse parking and wanted to get public input on the locations specified in the draft plan.

Boardmember Hammond expressed agreement with the Expert Review Panel's concerns about adequate time to review the I-90 technical committee's work and the impact of adding light rail to the bridge. She also noted that there was still uncertainty about whether the route through Bellevue would be a tunnel or elevated and was concerned that underestimated costs based on those uncertainties could damage public trust.

Chair Nickels called on Boardmember Thomas to make a motion to direct staff on how the Board would like to move forward.

It was moved by Vice Chair Thomas, seconded by Boardmember Butler to authorize the chief executive officer to distribute for public and technical review and comment a draft package of options for expanding regional transit in the Sound Transit district.

Boardmember Sims asked about the schedule for additional decisions on the draft plan; Mr. Ilgenfritz responded that a vote on adopting a plan was generally scheduled for the second meeting in June and the vote on whether to call for an election could take place at a later meeting sometime in July, but that the schedule was at the Board's discretion.

Boardmember Reardon asked how long public outreach is expected to last; Mr. Ilgenfritz responded that it will be a 6-week period and described the plans for that outreach.

In response to comments from Boardmember Dawson, Chair Nickels confirmed that three options would be included in a draft package distributed for public comment and technical review. Comment and review would be sought on the 20-year plan with updated dollar amounts and two 12-year plans, one funded by a four-tenths of one percent sales tax increase, and one funded by a five-tenths of one percent increase in the sales tax.

Boardmember Sims asked if details about the BNSF agreement would be available before the plan goes to public comment and before Boardmembers vote on adopting a final plan. Mr. Ilgenfritz noted that Ms. Earl has been meeting with BNSF and would like to reach an agreement before the Board is asked to make a final decision.

Boardmember Roberts said he opposed the motion based on the unanswered questions about the future HOV lane decision, the Eastside BNSF rail line, and other issues that can't be answered in time for the Board to make a decision in June or July. He spoke in favor of receiving public comment, but didn't feel the timing was right.

Boardmember Sims asked that the map be clear about the level of service being proposed in the areas of the map containing lines for New/Improved service, stations and/or access. He also asked that project start and completion dates be clear.

Boardmember Hammond spoke in favor of the public process and wanted to make sure it was clear when the services came on line and when transit needs will be met.

Chair Nickels closed debate and conducted the vote.

It was carried by the majority vote of all Boardmembers present that the motion authorizing the chief executive officer to distribute for public and technical review and comment a draft package of options for expanding regional transit in the Sound Transit district be approved as presented. Boardmember Roberts voted in the minority.

Consent Agenda

Minutes of the February 28, 2008 Meeting

Minutes of the March 13, 2008 Meeting

It was moved by Boardmember Burleigh, seconded by Boardmember Marchione, and carried by the unanimous vote of all Boardmembers present that the consent agenda be approved as presented.

Action Items

Items referred by Committee

Motion No. M2008-39 – Authorizing the chief executive officer to acquire certain real property from the Washington State Department of Transportation for the Sounder Seattle to Auburn Track and Signal project, in the amount of \$3,637,000 in land bank credits, and convey that property to the BNSF Railway Company.

It was moved by Vice Chair Reardon, seconded by Boardmember Burleigh, and carried by the unanimous vote of all Boardmembers present that Motion No. M2008-39 be approved as presented.

Executive Session

None.

Other Business

None.

Next Meeting

Thursday, May 8, 2008

1:00 to 4:00 p.m.

Ruth Fisher Boardroom

Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 3:19 p.m.

ATTEST:

Marcia Walker
Marcia Walker
Board Administrator


Greg Nickels
Board Chair