

SOUND TRANSIT BOARD MEETING
Summary Minutes
June 26, 2008

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 1:26 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*

(A) *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. Marcia Walker, Board Administrator announced that a quorum of the Board was present at roll call.

Report of the Chair

None.

Chief Executive Officer's Report

Joni Earl, CEO, reported that the Sound of Light reflector walls in the Rainier valley won a 2007 Top Public Art Projects award from Americans for the Arts.

She also reported that at the last Audit and Reporting Subcommittee meeting, Sound Transit received its 10th consecutive clean financial audit. Boardmember Patterson asked if this audit was a state performance audit similar to the one recently completed on the Port of Seattle; Ms. Earl responded that it was the independent annual financial audit that is required by state law. She also told the Board that Sound Transit will be doing an annual audit on the implementation of the corrective action plan for the Link Light rail performance audit conducted by the state auditor's office.

Ms. Earl presented a slide show of the Central Link and Airport Link light rail construction progress.

Boardmember Conlin asked what follow-up has been done in addressing concerns raised by the CCCJ. Ms. Earl responded that she will make sure Boardmembers receive a copy of the recent report that addresses those concerns if they haven't already received it.

Public Comment

(Comments on file with the Board Administrator)

John Zambrano and Michelle Robles, City of Mountlake Terrace Councilmembers
Loren Symmonds, City of Lynnwood Councilmember
Jeanne Burbidge, City of Federal Way Councilmember
Robert Scheuerman
Marty Evons
John Niles
Paul W Locke
Will Knedlik

Citizen Oversight Panel Letter on ST2 Financial Policies

Richard Chapin, Chair of the Citizen Oversight Panel presented a letter from the Panel on the ST2 Financial Policies.

Mr. Chapin noted that the Panel supports separating ST2 costs from Sound Move costs in order to clarify the financial information. The panel encourages the Board to show per capita costs and per household costs and provide more detail to prevent distortion of the numbers. The Panel asked that the plan be clear about the impact of a potential tax roll back and the ongoing operations and maintenance costs. The development of a website devoted to ST2 information was also urged as a way to keep citizens informed. He also noted that the website could be used to give more detail on the reasons behind Board decisions on ST2.

Boardmember Phillips thanked Mr. Chapin and the rest of the Panel for their service. Mr. Phillips said he supported a tax roll back idea and has asked staff to work on how that would occur, he also asked that staff enhance the ST2 website in order to present information to the public.

ST2

Ric Ilgenfritz, Executive Director of Policy, Planning and Public affairs and Geoff Patrick, Media Relations & Public Information Manager, reported on ST2 public input.

Mr. Patrick gave an overview of the work and presented information gathered through a questionnaire on the internet and by phone. The findings show that there is strong support for expanding mass transit, that a five-tenths of one percent tax option was preferred over a four-tenths of one percent tax option, that a 20-year plan was preferred over a 12-year plans, and that voters prefer going to a vote in 2008.

Mr. Patrick then summarized the main themes expressed in the narrative comments received during the public outreach process. The comments showed interest in adding more transit to deal with growth and rising gas prices, the need to get things done, and wanting to do something soon to react to high gas prices. He also noted that the comments showed support for light rail and requests for increasing Sounder and ST Express bus service. The comments

also included requests for investments outside Seattle and concerns about using sales tax to fund the ST2 program.

Greg Walker, Chief Policy & Planning Officer, gave a presentation on performance measures including economic, environmental, and mobility measures as well as conformity with regional plans.

Chair Nickels introduced a "chair's mark-up" plan; the plan adopted by the Board in 2007 with changes made based on a 12-year five-tenths of one percent tax plan. He introduced Matt Shelden, Senior Planner, who talked about the specifics of the plan and outlined the changes made to each section.

Mr. Nickels asked Boardmembers to give comments on the plan and announced he would call on Boardmembers by their subarea.

Boardmember Anderson commented that after looking at public opinion, there is support for an incremental approach that would allow completing a light rail corridor in smaller pieces. She noted that a partnership program in Tacoma is consistent with Sound Transit policy and is a way to boost ridership. She also supported adding the potential for a future tax roll back in the plan and spoke in favor of going back to the voters after six years to see if they want to add additional construction.

Boardmember Thomas spoke in favor of finding a way to add property acquisition beyond the light rail line to show the direction the Board is moving for future expansions.

Chair Nickels noted that Boardmember Enslow was interested in the parking and access issues.

Boardmember Patterson said that South King County could benefit from the revised plan, she spoke in favor of extending light rail to Highline Community College, the additional Sounder trains, and the new Tukwila station that will serve the South King County area. She also wanted to extend the light rail line to Federal Way, but that extension is not included in this plan. Chair Nickels noted that City of Federal Way Councilmember Burbidge testified today that the Federal Way city council would also like to see light rail extended to Federal Way.

Ms. Earl pointed out that the plan adds up to 12 new trains, and that she is currently working with BNSF on two proposals, one focuses on peak service, the other focuses on peak and mid-day service. The number of trains may be less than 12 trains if only peak service is planned.

Boardmember Butler commented on the public outreach report and spoke in favor of the planning funds for future light rail extensions in the I-90 corridor, the increase in Express bus service on I-90 and I-405 and the BRT service plan for SR 520. He asked that money set aside for the Eastside Rail feasibility study be spent on providing service in the I-405 corridor if the Eastside Rail proposal doesn't come to fruition. Based on the support for the 20-year plan and the 12-year plan, he asked if there was a plan in between those time periods that would address concerns from Mountlake Terrace, Lynnwood and Federal Way.

Boardmember Marchione said the revised plan is an improvement over the Proposition 1 plan, it brings light rail to Overlake seven years earlier than in the previous plan and includes an Express bus service expansion. He noted that planning money for the SR 520 corridor was not included in this revised plan and asked that the decision to remove that item be reviewed.

Boardmember Burleigh said she was pleased with the Eastside investments; she also spoke in favor of coming back to the voters at the mid-point to see if voters want to add more.

Boardmember Conlin felt this revised plan integrates modes throughout the region and offered a system that connects people in Seattle to destinations outside the Seattle area. He also spoke in favor of getting a plan to voters as soon as possible.

Boardmember Constantine spoke in favor of extending the light rail line to Northgate under this plan; he also spoke in favor of trying to stretch the light rail line to Federal Way to serve the large number of people living in that area and planning funding for connecting the Duwamish area in the future.

Boardmember Phillips thought the revised plan responds well to the voters who asked for a shorter, less costly plan. He also felt it served the North King area well, but was also interested in finding the best system for the entire region.

Boardmember Sims asked about the number of buses that would be added under this plan; Mr. Shelden responded that the plan represents a 10-15% increase over current levels; approximately 50 new buses. The increases would be focused on high demand corridors and would be brought on as soon as base capacity was available. Mr. Sims asked that detailed information on that aspect of the plan be sent to him.

Boardmember Burleigh asked if staff was taking redeployment of buses into account when planning for bus service under the plan; staff responded that the opening of Central Link will allow some Metro bus redeployment, more Sound Transit redeployment will be available when Bellevue and Northgate light rail lines open.

Boardmember Dawson said the revised plan had some improvements but her interest was in having light rail extend into Snohomish County, she noted that the 20-year plan was preferred by people responding to the public outreach questionnaire and by many groups and jurisdictions in Snohomish County. She did not think it was in the interest of the Snohomish County subarea to support a 12-year plan.

Boardmember Reardon agreed with Boardmember Dawson and said that he wanted to see bus service into Snohomish County improved and was looking for middle ground that could be reached between a 20-year and 12-year plan to allow light rail to come to Snohomish County. He noted that he did not support a 12-year plan.

Chair Nickels thanked Boardmember for their comments and said the Board would be working to continue to make changes to the plan based on what was heard today.

Action Items

Items not referred by Committee

Voucher Certification for May 1, 2008 through May 15, 2008

It was moved by Boardmember Conlin, seconded by Boardmember Burleigh, and carried by the unanimous vote of all Board members present that the Voucher Certification for May 1, 2008 through May 15, 2008 be approved as presented.

Motion No. M2008-58 – Authorizing the chief executive officer to execute a contract with Aronson Security Group to provide final design, equipment installation, configuration, and training for a fully functional security system at Lakewood Station in the amount of \$441,000 with a 5% contingency of \$22,050 for a total authorized contract amount not to exceed \$463,050.

Chair Nickels explained that this item is coming straight to the Board because of a July 1, 2008 deadline. Nick Marquardt, Senior IT Project Manager, presented the staff report.

It was moved by Vice Chair Thomas, seconded by Boardmember Anderson, and carried by the unanimous vote of all Board members present that Motion No. M2008-58 be approved as presented.

Executive Session

None.

Other Business

None.


Next Meeting

Thursday, July 10, 2008
1:00 to 4:00 p.m.
Ruth Fisher Boardroom

Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 3:38 p.m.

ATTEST:



Marcia Walker
Board Administrator


Greg Nickels
Board Chair

**Regional Transit Authority
Voucher Certification Approval
May 15, 2008**

Auditing Officer Certification

I, the undersigned, certify under penalty of perjury that the expenses listed below represent claims that were just, due, and paid obligations against the Central Puget Sound Regional Transit Authority, and further that I am authorized to authenticate and certify said claims paid through the disbursement process.

Auditing Officer:



Kelly Priestley, Controller

The vouchers below have been reviewed and certified by individual departments and the Central Puget Sound Regional Transit Authority's Auditing Officer.

Claims Vouchers:	Numbers	Amounts
A/P Checks *	70575 - 70753*	9,642,138.70
Treasurer Checks	1207 - 1221	113.00
Wire Transfers, Credit Cards, ACHs	22	26,626,091.02
Voided Checks	70440, 70542, 70574, 70603	(198,259.36)
Total Claims	210	\$36,070,083.36

Smart Card Central Payments:	Numbers	Amounts
Wire Transfers		0.00
Total Claims	0	\$0.00

Payroll Vouchers:	Numbers	Amounts
Payroll Checks	8023 - 8033	\$16,913.22
Direct Deposit	432	\$757,279.06
Voided Check /EFT		
Payroll Taxes	1	\$170,969.19
Total Payroll	444	\$945,161.47

* Checks 70602 and 70731 were not issued

Total certified vouchers from May 1, 2008 through May 15, 2008 are \$37,015,244.83.