

**SOUND TRANSIT  
STAFF REPORT**

**MOTION NO. M2008-29**

**Transit Operations Task Force  
Of the Sound Transit Board**

<b>Meeting:</b>	<b>Date:</b>	<b>Type of Action:</b>	<b>Staff Contact:</b>	<b>Phone:</b>
Executive Committee	3/6/08	Discussion/Possible Action to Recommend Board Approval	Agnes Govern, Executive Director Operations, Projects and Corporate Services	(206) 398-5037
Board	3/13/08	Action		

**PROPOSED ACTION**

Establish a Transit Operations Task Force of the Sound Transit Board.

**KEY FEATURES of PROPOSED ACTION**

The purpose of the Transit Operations Task Force of the Sound Transit Board would be to assist staff as we frame upcoming policy discussions with the Board. These include:

- Reviewing the ST Express business model;
- Evaluating the current provision of Sounder maintenance services by Amtrak;
- Understanding the impact of the Tacoma Link operators selecting union representations;
- Reviewing current facility maintenance approach;
- Understanding problems and opportunities that arise in our agreement with King County Metro Transit as Central Link operator; and
- Understanding policy options to address parking capacity constraints.

It is expected that the Transit Operations Task Force would meet monthly for at least 6 months, and thereafter as required.

**PROJECT DESCRIPTION and BACKGROUND for PROPOSED ACTION**

As we approach full implementation of all of our services, Sound Transit needs to take a comprehensive look at our approach to operations in each of our services: ST Express, Sounder, Central Link and Tacoma Link. We need to examine our current service approach and look for opportunities to increase our efficiency and effectiveness. In addition, we need to address parking policies to see if we can ease current capacity issues at many of our stations.

**CONSEQUENCES of DELAY**

There would be no immediate adverse consequence for a short delay in approving this motion. A delay of more than a month will likely impact our ability to bring these policy issues to the full Board for their consideration.

## SOUND TRANSIT

### MOTION NO. M2008-29

A motion of the Board of the Central Puget Sound Regional Transit Authority establishing a Transit Operations Task Force of the Board with membership appointed by the Board Chair.

#### Background

As we approach full implementation of all of our services, Sound Transit needs to take a comprehensive look at our approach to operations in each of our services: ST Express, Sounder, Central Link, and Tacoma Link. We need to examine our current service approach and look for opportunities to increase our efficiency and our effectiveness. The Task Force will focus on the operating functions of the agency as we continue to transition from start up of the services promised in Sound Move to a sustainable and quality provision of regional transit services.

#### Purpose

The purpose of the Operations Task Force of the Board would be to assist staff as we frame upcoming policy discussions with the Board. This working group will allow a process for discussions amongst Boardmembers and staff in advance of full Board discussion on strategic policy issues. These include reviewing the ST Express business model, evaluating the current provision of Sounder maintenance services by Amtrak, understanding the impact of the Tacoma Link operators selecting union representation, reviewing current facility maintenance approach, and understanding potential issues that arise in our agreement with King County Metro as Central Link operator.

Topics expected to be covered in the Transit Operations Task Force would include:


- Current Sound Transit operational costs and comparisons with peer agencies
- Understanding O&M performance standards for all Sound Transit modes and their comparison within the industry
- The current business model for all three Sound Transit modes: advantages and disadvantages
- Future business model alternatives

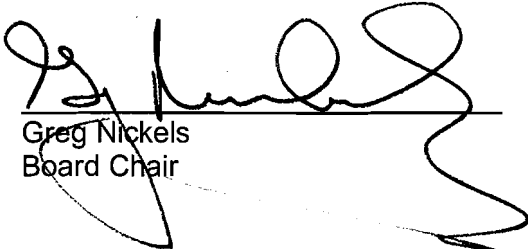
#### Motion

It is hereby moved by the Board of the Central Puget Sound Regional Transit Authority that a Transit Operations Task Force of the Board be established, with membership appointed by the Board Chair. The task force shall report to the Board its recommendations as they are developed.

APPROVED by the Board of the Central Puget Sound Regional Transit Authority at a regular meeting thereof held on March 13, 2008.

ATTEST:

  
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Marcia Walker  
Board Administrator

  
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Greg Nickels  
Board Chair