

SOUND TRANSIT FINANCE COMMITTEE
Summary Minutes
January 8, 2009

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 12:06 p.m. by Vice Chair Fred Butler in the Ruth Fisher Boardroom, 401 South Jackson Street, Seattle, Washington.

Roll Call

Chair

(A) Aaron Reardon, Snohomish County Executive

Vice Chair

(P) Fred Butler, Issaquah Deputy Council President

(P) Mary-Alyce Burleigh, Kirkland Councilmember

(A) Richard Conlin, Seattle Council President

(P) Dave Enslow, Sumner Mayor

(P) Claudia Thomas, Lakewood Councilmember

(P) Pete von Reichbauer, King Co. Councilmember

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

Report of the Chair

Vice Chair Butler announced that he was chairing the meeting because Chair Reardon needed to leave to deal with flooding issues in Snohomish County.

Vice Chair Butler noted that the December 18, 2008 Finance Committee was cancelled due to inclement weather, items that were scheduled for the December 18th meeting have been added to today's agenda.

Vice Chair Butler announced that this Saturday, January 10th the first of three open houses on neighborhood parking and Link fares will be held. The open house will be take place at El Centro de la Raza from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Sound Transit staff will be in attendance to answer questions about the proposed fare options for Link light rail.

Vice Chair Butler also spoke about the memorial service held for former Boardmember Jack Crawford.

Chief Financial Officer's Report

Chief Financial Officer Brian McCartan announced that because the December 18, 2008 Audit and Reporting Subcommittee meeting was cancelled, the meeting is being rescheduled for January 22, 2009 from 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. The Finance Committee meeting on January 22, 2009 will take place from 1:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. to accommodate the Audit and Reporting Subcommittee meeting.

Discussion – 2009 Service Implementation Plan Amendment

Mike Bergman, Program Manager for Service Planning and Development, gave a presentation on a proposed amendment to the 2009 Service Implementation Plan. Mr. Bergman explained that an amendment to the 2009 Service Implementation Plan is necessary to add additional service approved by the passage of the ST2 plan. The ST2 plan includes an increase of 100,000 bus service hours on existing corridors, a 17% increase. In order to fully implement the plan, an additional 62 buses will be needed. Initially, service increases will take place in off-peak times using the existing bus fleet, by mid to late 2010 more buses and added bus base capacity will allow improvements to peak period bus service. Mr. Bergman explained that

Board-approved service standards would be used to determine where hours would be programmed; bus routes that are at capacity would receive higher priority. He noted that a consultant study that projects ridership demand through 2015 will also be used to assist with service improvements.

Mr. Bergman noted that in February 2010, a major restructure of bus service in the south would take place in coordination with the start-up of Link service to the airport and increased Sounder service. Improvements will include new ST2 bus hours and redeployed existing service to provide two new routes. Mr. Bergman explained that one of the main objectives is to redeploy buses efficiently and minimize duplication. Part of the work would include establishing budget contingency for emergencies.

Mr. Bergman also provided information on the implementation schedule. Trip level improvements will begin in June. Additional improvements will take place in September 2009 and February 2010 and will be included in the amendment to the 2009 Service Implementation Plan this April. Six open houses are scheduled to review the changes to the 2009 Service Implementation Plan. This fall there will be public outreach to review the Draft 2010 Service Implementation Plan which will continue ST2 service improvements.

Mr. Bergman explained that once fleet procurement and bus maintenance base expansions take place, the 2010 service improvements will be possible. He gave an overview of some upcoming actions that will increase Sound Transit's fleet and base capacity, including procurement of additional buses through remaining Sound Transit and Metro contract options with bus manufacturers, and contributions to a base expansion project in Snohomish County. King County Metro and Sound Transit are discussing a near-term project to increase base capacity in order to accommodate an additional 45 Sound Transit buses.

Items within Finance Committee Authority for Final Action

Minutes of December 4, 2008 Finance Committee Meeting

It was moved by Boardmember Burleigh, seconded by Boardmember Thomas, and carried by the unanimous vote of all members present that the December 4, 2008 minutes be approved as presented.

Motion No. M2008-123 – Authorizing the chief executive officer to execute contracts for on-call, temporary staffing services with AppleOne Employment Services, Parker Staffing Services, Robert Half International (Accountemps), SRI Technologies Inc., Triplenet Technologies, Inc., TechStaff, and VOLT Services Group for two years, beginning January 1, 2009, with the option to extend for three additional one-year periods at Sound Transit's sole discretion. Further, the chief executive officer is authorized to execute individual contracts that exceed \$200,000, provided the two-year aggregate of temporary staffing services does not exceed the amount of \$2 million.

Brian McCartan, Chief Financial Officer, presented the staff report.

Public Comment

None.

It was moved by Boardmember Enslow, seconded by Boardmember Burleigh, and carried by the unanimous vote of all members present that Motion No. M2008-123 be approved as presented.

Motion No. M2008-125 – Authorizing the chief executive officer to execute a one-year contract with McBee Strategic Consulting to provide federal relations consulting services in the amount of \$590,073 with options to extend for two additional one-year periods for a total authorized contract amount not to exceed \$1,823,855.

Ann McNeil, Government & Community Relations Manager and Ric Ilgenfritz, Executive Director, presented the staff report.

Boardmember Enslow asked if changes are expected with the new administration; Ms. McNeil noted that changes in funding for transportation projects are possible. She confirmed that this contact will allow Sound Transit to work on receiving federal money for projects, and maintain and establish new relationships with federal officials.

Public Comment

Paul W. Locke (comments on file with Board Administration)

It was moved by Boardmember Enslow, seconded by Boardmember Burleigh, and carried by the unanimous vote of all members present that Motion No. M2008-125 be approved as presented.

Motion No. M2008-122 – Authorizing the chief executive officer to execute a one-year agreement with Pierce Transit and the City of Auburn for operation of bus Route 497 between Lakeland Hills and Auburn Station in the amount of \$116,871, with a 15% contingency of \$17,531 for a total authorized agreement amount of \$134,402.

Jim Moore, Project Manager Service Planning and Development, presented the staff report. Mr. Moore noted that ridership for the route would come from serving Auburn station, two park and ride lots and service to the Lakewood Hills neighborhood.

Public Comment

Paul W. Locke (comments on file with Board Administration)

It was moved by Boardmember Enslow, seconded by Boardmember Thomas, and carried by the unanimous vote of all members present that Motion No. M2008-122 be approved as presented.

Motion No. M2009-01 – Authorizing the chief executive officer to execute an agreement with Community Transit to share engineering and design costs for upgrading and expanding Kasch Park base in an amount not to exceed \$600,000.

Mike Perry, Deputy Director Transportation Services, and Barry Alavi, Project Manager, presented the staff report. Mr. Perry explained that the Kasch Park base expansion is expected to be completed in late summer/fall of 2010 in conjunction with Sound Transit's increase in service.

Boardmember Enslow asked why investment in a partner facility is taking place at this time; Mr. Perry responded that this project is needed in the interim until a Sound Transit base facility can be completed in order to meet the ST2 goal of increasing bus service by 2010. Mr. Perry noted that the cost to Sound Transit for the engineering and design costs is proportionate to the number of buses operated by Sound Transit at that facility.

Joni Earl, Chief Executive Officer, explained that when Sound Transit negotiated with Community Transit to add buses to that base, it agreed to look at assisting with the engineering and design costs. She explained that following this work, final construction costs will be known and Sound Transit can negotiate further funding for a portion of the construction work.

Public Comment

Paul W. Locke
Will Knedlik
(comments on file with Board Administration)

It was moved by Boardmember Burleigh, seconded by Boardmember Thomas, and carried by the unanimous vote of all members present that Motion No. M2009-01 be approved as presented.

Motion No. M2009-05 – Authorizing the chief executive officer to execute a contract amendment with W.W. Grainger, Inc. to provide necessary shop tools and maintenance equipment for the Central Link Light Rail Initial Segment/Airport Link project in the amount of \$466,896, with a 10% contingency of \$46,689, totaling \$513,585 for a new total authorized contract amount not to exceed \$653,585.

Vice Chair Butler noted that this item was originally scheduled for the December 18, 2008 meeting as Motion No. M2008-124. Because that meeting was cancelled due to snow, and because changes have been made, the motion is being brought to today's meeting as Motion No. M2009-05.

Charles Joseph, Program Manager, presented the staff report.

Public Comment

None.

It was moved by Boardmember Thomas, seconded by Boardmember Burleigh, and carried by the unanimous vote of all members present that Motion No. M2009-05 be approved as presented.

Motion No. M2009-02 – Authorizing the chief executive officer to execute a one year contract with four one-year options with TubeArt Displays, Inc. to provide operational signage for the Central Link Initial Segment/Airport Link project in the amount of \$263,805, with a 5% contingency of \$13,190, for a total authorized contract amount not to exceed \$276,995.

Charles Joseph, Program Manager, presented the staff report.

Public Comment

None.


It was moved by Boardmember Burleigh, seconded by Boardmember Enslow, and carried by the unanimous vote of all members present that Motion No. M2009-02 be approved as presented.

Next Meeting:

Thursday, January 22, 2009, 1:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m., Ruth Fisher Boardroom, 401 South Jackson Street, Seattle WA.

Adjourn

There was no other business; the meeting was adjourned at 1:10 p.m.


Aaron Reardon
Finance Committee Chair

ATTEST:


Katie Weiss
Board Coordinator