

**SOUND TRANSIT BOARD MEETING**  
**Summary Minutes**  
**March 12, 2009**

**Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 2:11 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**

(A) *Aaron Reardon, Snohomish County Executive*

(P) *Claudia Thomas, Lakewood Councilmember*

(A) *Julie Anderson, Tacoma Deputy Mayor*

(P) *Mary-Alyce Burleigh, Kirkland Councilmember*

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

(P) *Richard Conlin, Seattle Council President*

(P) *Dow Constantine, King County Council Chair*

(A) *David Enslow, City of Sumner Mayor*

(A) *Paula Hammond, WSDOT Secretary*

(P) *John Marchione, City of Redmond Mayor*

(A) *Joe Marine, City of Mukilteo Mayor*

(P) *Pat McCarthy, Pierce County Executive*

(P) *Julia Patterson, King County Councilmember*

(P) *Larry Phillips, King County Councilmember*

(P) *Paul Roberts, Everett Councilmember*

(A) *Ron Sims, King County Executive*

(A) *Peter 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**

Chair Nickels announced that the meeting was moved to start at 2:00 pm to accommodate a meeting of a group of Boardmembers working on the upcoming Board retreat.

Chair Nickels congratulated the agency on the University Link project groundbreaking that took place on March 6<sup>th</sup>. He noted that the University Link project will create 2,900 construction jobs, will serve three major colleges and universities—Seattle Central Community College, Seattle University and the University of Washington, and will provide three-minute trips between the University of Washington and Capitol Hill, and between Capitol Hill and downtown Seattle. Senator Patty Murray, University of Washington President Mark Emmert and members of the Sound Transit Board all participated in the groundbreaking.

Chair Nickels announced that CEO Joni Earl is a recipient of the Women of the Year award from the Puget Sound Chapter of the Women's Transportation Seminar.

Chair Nickels also announced that Mukilteo Mayor Joe Marine has been appointed to serve on the Sound Transit Board. Mr. Marine will replace former Boardmember Deanna Dawson from Snohomish County. Mr. Marine has been Mayor of Mukilteo since 2005 and serves on the Community Transit Board.

**Chief Executive Officer's Report**

Ms. Earl gave an update on Sound Transit's efforts to secure federal stimulus dollars. She noted that earlier in the day, the Puget Sound Regional Council's Transportation Operations Committee made funding recommendations to the Transportation Policy Board. Through that process, \$23 million in federal stimulus funds is expected to go to Sound Transit; the money will be divided between the five subareas. The projects that will receive stimulus funding include accelerating light rail to Northgate, purchasing clean fuel buses, additional funding for the Mountlake Terrace Freeway Station, additional funding for the M Street-Lakewood

New Track and Signal project, and accelerating final design and construction for the Tukwila Commuter Rail Station.

She noted that the agency continues to pursue funding through regional funding sources and competitive Federal Transit Administration funds. The projects the agency will be submitting to regional funding sources include asking for additional money for Link light rail right-of-way for extensions in King County and Pierce County, additional money for the D Street to M Street project in Tacoma, and beginning environmental analysis of the Northgate to Lynwood light rail extension. PSRC will begin decision-making in late May, with decisions being finalized in June or July. She also noted that additional money might be available from Federal sources; she noted that the agency will look for additional funding for the University Link project to accelerate the Northgate final design from the New Starts program. Other federal funding sources will also be pursued, including: additional funding from the high-speed rail program for the D Street to M Street project, additional funding for the Airport to South 200<sup>th</sup> segment through a new multi-modal competitive funding source and clean fuel buses through Department of Energy sources.

Boardmember Patterson confirmed that the PSRC Transportation Policy Board, which she chairs, voted on the list of projects that will receive federal funding earlier today. She noted that the decision followed discussions that considered the whole region; and noted that the projects will encourage jobs and economic development. Boardmembers Roberts and Burleigh commented that the process was commendable.

#### Central Link Initial Segment and Airport Link Construction and Rail Activation Update

Ms. Earl introduced Ahmad Fazel, Link Light Rail Director, Joe Gildner, Link Light Rail Deputy Director, and Mike Williams, Senior Rail Activation Manager to review the status of the initial segment and the readiness of the system for the July opening of Link light rail.

Mr. Fazel reviewed the financial status of the project; he noted that the project was baselined at \$2.4 billion in September of 2002; the estimated final cost at completion is \$2.3 billion. The amount of contingency authorized to date is \$168 million; \$141 million of that amount has been committed. Mr. Fazel also reviewed the schedule; no float days remain because of weather impacts, but the schedule is still on track.

Mr. Fazel described the Link light rail contracts and status; overall, the project is 96% completed. The Tukwila and SODO segments are completed, and the Rainier Valley segment is substantially completed. He noted that work is taking place at the Operations and Maintenance facility to expand the yard to provide storage for 104 light rail vehicles. He noted that all 35 vehicles needed for the initial segment opening have been delivered, and 31 have been conditionally accepted. Joint operations testing in the Downtown Seattle Transit Tunnel completed, he noted that planned practice for joint bus and rail operations in the tunnel is underway, and one is scheduled for this Friday. Joe Gildner, Link Light Rail Deputy Director explained that the Beacon Hill segment is the critical path for the initial segment, work has taken place on the station since 2004. Underground construction and mining on the segment is completed, and mechanical and electrical systems are underway. All four elevators that will serve the station have been installed; and installation of the Fire Life Safety (FLS) system and variable messaging boards is underway. The Mount Baker Station is nearing completion; the remaining plaza work is being completed in front of that station.

The FLS system testing is in process and on schedule. The mechanical and electrical equipment is also being tested. Following testing, two months of simulated service is also planned for the system before start-up. Mr. Fazel explained that the FTA consultant who provides monthly reports on the project is currently reporting that the Link light rail Initial Segment project is one week late. Mr. Fazel noted that the agency still believes the opening will occur on time.

Ron Lewis reported that Airport Link is scheduled to open on December 31, 2009 and 10 days of float remain in the schedule. The approved project budget is \$269 million and the project is approximately 80% complete, with an estimated cost at completion of \$268 million.

Mike Williams, Senior Rail Activation Manager described the elements included in the rail activation plan; the plan includes safety certification, procedures development, training, emergency preparedness, customer outreach, and pre-revenue service testing. He reviewed the plans Sound Transit has put in place for rail

activation. Mr. Williams described the steps involved in rail activation starting with civil and systems construction and testing and ending with a final safety certification for the system. He noted that safety drills to test emergency preparedness are underway. He also described the Operations and Maintenance agreement between Sound Transit and King County Metro. He reviewed Sound Transit's operational responsibilities, including overseeing King County Metro's operation of the light rail vehicles, facilities maintenance, ticket vending machine maintenance and security/fare enforcement.

Mr. Williams responded to Chair Nickels' question about how Sound Transit oversees King County Metro's operations; he noted that operations will be a collaborative effort with Sound Transit providing the oversight function. Mr. Williams explained that Sound Transit will also be responsible for setting on-time performance standards. Ms. Earl noted that FTA requires that Sound Transit be the signatory in certain areas of operations as the owners of the system; because of that, Sound Transit is working with King County Metro to clarify the roles and responsibilities and make sure efforts are not duplicated.

Boardmember Phillips noted that the Central Link Oversight committee regularly reviews the progress of the Link light rail progress and commented that the reports have resulted in great oversight.

### **Public Comment**

None.

### **Consent Agenda**

Voucher Certification for January 16, 2009 through January 31, 2009  
Minutes of the February 12, 2009 Meeting

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

### **Action Items**

#### Items not referred by Committee

Motion No. M2009-22 – Authorizing the chief executive officer to execute Agreement GCA 3361 Task Order A-11 with the Washington State Department of Transportation to provide construction and construction management services for the Mountlake Terrace Freeway Station Project in the amount of \$22,613,927 with a 5% contingency of \$1,130,696, for a total authorized amount not to exceed \$23,744,624.

Hank Howard, Project Manager gave the staff presentation.

Mr. Howard responded to questions from Boardmember Butler about the contingency for the project; he explained that there is a shared Sound Transit/WSDOT contingency of 5% contingency included in the contract amount, and Sound Transit holds an additional 5% contingency in reserve. Mr. Howard also explained that Sound Transit has the final authority for change orders over \$10,000.

**It was moved by Boardmember Butler, seconded by Vice Chair Thomas, and carried by the unanimous vote of all Boardmembers present that Motion No. M2009-22 be approved as presented.**

#### Items referred by the Finance Committee

Motion No. M2009-21 – Authorizing the chief executive officer to increase the project contingency within Schedule F of the TubeArt System Wide Signage contract in the amount of \$500,000 for station customer signage for the Central Link Initial Segment and Airport Link projects for a new total authorized contract amount not to exceed \$6,018,639, which includes costs reimbursable to Sound Transit from King County Metro for betterment work.

**It was moved by Boardmember Butler, seconded by Vice Chair Thomas, and carried by the unanimous vote of all Boardmembers present that Motion No. M2009-21 be approved as presented.**

Chair Nickels noted that item 7.C., Resolution No. R2009-04 was removed from today's agenda because it requires a supermajority vote and there are not enough Boardmembers in attendance today to act on the resolution. He noted that it will be added to the agenda of the next Board meeting.

**Executive Session**

At 3:05 p.m., Chair Nickels announced that the Board would convene a 35-minute executive session authorized under RCW 42.30.110 subsection (1)(g) to discuss the performance of the chief executive officer. Legal Council Desmond Brown confirmed that the topic was appropriate for executive session.

Chair Nickels reconvened the meeting at 3:40 p.m.

**Other Business**

None.


**Next Meeting**

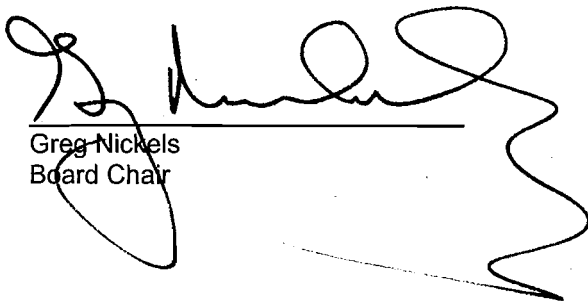
Thursday, March 26, 2009  
1:00 to 4:00 p.m.  
Ruth Fisher Boardroom

**Adjourn**

The meeting was adjourned at 3:40 p.m.

ATTEST:

  
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Marcia Walker  
Board Administrator

  
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Greg Nickels  
Board Chair