

**SOUND TRANSIT BOARD MEETING**  
**Summary Minutes**  
**February 25, 2010**

**Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 1:50 p.m. by Chair Aaron Reardon, in the Ruth Fisher Boardroom, 401 South Jackson Street, Seattle, Washington.

**Roll Call**

**Chair**

(P) Aaron Reardon, Snohomish County Executive

**Vice Chairs**

(P) Fred Butler, Issaquah Deputy Council President  
(P) Claudia Thomas, Lakewood Councilmember

**Boardmembers**

(P) Claudia Balducci, Bellevue Councilmember  
(A) Richard Conlin, Seattle Council President  
(A) Dow Constantine, King County Executive  
(P) Jan Drago, King County Councilmember  
(P) David Enslow, City of Sumner Mayor  
(P) Jake Fey, City of Tacoma Deputy Mayor  
(A) Paula Hammond, WSDOT Secretary  
(P) John Marchione, City of Redmond Mayor

(P) Joe Marine, City of Mukilteo Mayor  
(P) Pat McCarthy, Pierce County Executive  
(P) Mike McGinn, City of Seattle Mayor  
(A) Julia Patterson, King County Councilmember  
(P) Larry Phillips, King County Councilmember  
(P) Paul Roberts, Everett Councilmember  
(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 Reardon thanked the Sound Transit Boardmembers and the Bellevue City Council for the successful East Link Joint Workshop that was held on February 11, 2010.

**Chief Executive Officer's Report**

**East Link**

Joni Earl, CEO, announced that at the Joint Workshop, direction was given to Sound Transit staff and City of Bellevue staff to develop an East Link workplan. There have been very productive follow up discussions between Sound Transit staff and City of Bellevue staff.

**Ridership Summary**

Ms. Earl provided the December 2009 Ridership Summary. Year-end ridership for 2009 increased to 18.8 million boardings, a 16.7% increase over 2008, mostly due to the startup of Central Link. ST Express experienced a ridership increase, but Sounder and Tacoma Link each had ridership decreases. Ridership analysis for 2008 and 2009 illustrate the effects of the recession, particularly in the south corridor, where unemployment is higher. In 2008, ridership was boosted by the peak fuel prices.

**Legislative Update**

Ms. Earl updated the Board on the status of the legislative session. With two weeks remaining in the legislative session, Sound Transit's three pieces of legislation are faring well. Senate Bill 6579 (SB 6579), sponsored by Sen. Adam Kline, clarifies Sound Transit's status as essential public facilities. SB 6579 has passed the Senate, the House Committee, and is pending in House Rules. Senate Bill 6571 (SB 6571), sponsored by Sen. Ed Murray, provides for automatic RTA inclusion when a city annexes new territory. SB 6571, a Department of Revenue requested bill, has passed the Senate, the House Committee, and is now pending in House Rules. House Bill 2575 (HB 2575), sponsored by Rep. Dave Upthegrove, adds Sound

Transit to the Capital Projects Advisory Review Board. HB 2575 has passed the House, the Senate Committee, and is pending in Senate Rules. These three bills must be passed out of their respective chambers by March 5, 2010.

Ms. Earl stated that the House transportation budget includes \$350,000 for a Joint Transportation Committee (JTC) panel to study transit. Sound Transit is included in the panel as a member. The mission of the panel is to develop a blueprint for future state investments in transit as well as discuss performance and accountability measures. The JTC panel is not included in the Senate transportation budget.

Both the House and Senate budgets propose diverting \$14 million of unspent Regional Mobility Grant Funds to ferries. During consideration of the budget, the House approved an amendment offered by Reps. Marco Liias and Mary Lou Dickerson to restore the funds to the transit grant program. The amendment directs that the funds should be used to fund projects on the program's contingency list. Included in the amendment was \$5 million for Sound Transit bus service in Snohomish County.

Ms. Earl, praised Rep. Liias for his strong advocacy of transit this legislative session. Rep. Liias had a bill that would have provided revenue for local transit agencies, however the bill died in committee.

Another bill with possible impact to Sound Transit is a Senate bill requiring a work group, with Sound Transit as a member, to look at transit connectivity in the 520/UW corridor. The House and Governor Gregoire are working to alter the bill's language, but Sound Transit's role would remain the same. This work would be follow-on work from previous high capacity transit studies of the corridor.

#### Federal Funding

Ms. Earl gave a quick update on federal funding. The ST2 plan assumes \$900 million in federal funding. President Obama's recently released budget includes \$110 million for U-Link. That money is an installment on the \$813 Full Funding Grant Agreement. Sound Transit sent in a congressional appropriation list to the Congressional Delegation with a letter from Chair Reardon. USDOT announced the TIGER awards earlier in February, however Sound Transit did not receive an award on either of two submitted projects; the extension of Link to S. 200<sup>th</sup> and various Sounder improvements. There will be another round of TIGER grants in the coming months. Details on the Federal Railroad Administration's HSR grants to WSDOT are still not available, however it is likely that the D-M Streets project will receive funding.

#### R8A Stage 2

Ms. Earl provided an update on R8A Stage 2, the addition of outside HOV lanes and ramp modifications between Mercer Island and Bellevue Way on I-90. It is the mirror of the Stage 1 improvements completed in 2008, and the precursor for Stage 3, from Mercer Island to Seattle. Completion of the three stages is necessary for light rail to reach the eastside. Construction bids for Stage 2 were opened by WSDOT for Sound Transit on February 10, 2010. Nine bids, ranging between 24.3% and 11.4% below the engineer's estimate of \$15.3 million, were received. The three lowest bidders were within 3.5% range of each other, suggesting a competitive bid and good plans. The low bidder was Merlino Construction. Sound Transit has revised the task order with WSODT to reflect the bids. The construction order with WSODT for their administration of the contract was reduced by \$4.3 million and the owner's contingency was reduced to 10%. The \$5.7 million in savings will be reserved as unallocated project construction contingency and will not be used without concurrence from the Board.

Ms. Earl announced that a memo titled, "Sound Transit Security Program for Passengers, Employees, and Facilities" (memo on file with Board Administrator) was included in the meeting's packets. On Monday, February 22, 2010, Sound Transit Deputy CEO, Ron Tober participated in a Seattle City Council discussion on transit security measures. The information in the memo was presented to the City Council.

#### Sound Transit Sustainability Progress Report

Ms. Earl provided background on Sound Transit's Sustainability Initiative. In 2007, Boardmember Phillips sponsored, and the Board adopted a Sustainability Initiative to integrate sustainable strategies and practices

throughout the organization. Following Board adoption of the initiative, Ms. Earl issued an executive order to direct staff to find ways to incorporate the Board's initiative. Sound Transit's Sustainability Program is certified by the International Standards Organization (ISO) as ISO 14001. Sound Transit is one of only six American transit agencies with ISO certification.

Perry Weinberg, Environmental Affairs and Sustainability Officer, presented the Sound Transit Sustainability Progress Report (report on file with Board Administrator). Sound Transit staff will develop a Sustainability Strategic Plan that will be used to guide the mid to longer term efforts of the Sustainability Program. The Strategic Plan will be presented to the Board for consideration at a future Board meeting.

### **Public Comment**

None.

### **Consent Agenda**

Voucher Certification for January 1, 2010 through January 15, 2010  
Minutes of the December 10, 2009 Meeting

**It was moved by Boardmember Marine, seconded by Vice Chair Thomas, 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**

#### **Resolution No. R2010-03 – Modifying the permanent committees of the Board**

Joni Earl, CEO, gave the staff presentations on Resolution No. R2010-03, Motion No. M2010-29, Motion No. M2010-30, and Motion No. M2010-31. The intent of these action items is to amend Resolution 1-1 to create a new committee structure. The new structure would keep the Executive Committee, eliminate the Finance Committee, and create a Capital Committee and Operations and Administration Committee. The proposed committee restructuring arose from discussions at the 2009 Board retreat, where Boardmembers expressed interest in aligning committees with agency structure. The Finance Committee's authority and responsibility would be transferred to the two new committees. The Operations and Administration Committee would cover transit service, operations, fleet, facilities and agency-wide administration contracts. The Capital Committee would be responsible for the capital program and largely encompass the work of the Design, Engineering, and Construction Management department and the Planning, Environment and Project Development department. If approved, Executive Committee would meet on the First Thursday from 10:30 a.m. to Noon, Capital Committee would meet on the second Thursday from 1:30 p.m. to 4 p.m., Operations and Administration Committee would meet on the third Thursday, and the Board would meet on the fourth Thursday. Audit and Reporting Committee would still meet quarterly.

**It was moved by Vice Chair Thomas, seconded by Boardmember Marine, and carried by the unanimous vote of all Boardmembers present that Resolution No. R2010-03 be approved as presented.**

#### **Motion No. M2010-29 – Regarding the Sound Transit Executive Committee**

**It was moved by Boardmember Marine, seconded by Boardmember Roberts, and carried by the unanimous vote of all Boardmembers present that Motion No. M2010-29 be approved as presented.**

#### **Motion No. M2010-30 – Regarding the Sound Transit Capital Committee**

**It was moved by Boardmember Phillips, seconded by Boardmember Marine, and carried by the unanimous vote of all Boardmembers present that Motion No. M2010-30 be approved as presented.**

Motion No. M2010-31 – Regarding the Sound Transit Operations and Administration Committee

**It was moved by Boardmember Roberts, seconded by Boardmember Balducci, and carried by the unanimous vote of all Boardmembers present that Motion No. M2010-31 be approved as presented.**

**It was moved by Chair Reardon, seconded by Boardmember Marine, and carried by the unanimous vote of all members present that the following Boardmembers members be appointed to the Capital Committee:**

Fred Butler (Chair); Julia Patterson (Vice Chair); Claudia Balducci; Richard Conlin; Jan Drago; Jake Fey; Joe Marine; Mike McGinn; Larry Phillips.

**It was moved by Chair Reardon, seconded by Boardmember Roberts, and carried by the unanimous vote of all members present that the following Boardmembers members be appointed to the Operations and Administration Committee:**

David Enslow (Chair); John Marchione (Vice Chair); Fred Butler; Dow Constantine; Paul Roberts; Claudia Thomas; Pete von Reichbauer.

Items referred by the Finance Committee

Resolution No. R2010-02 – Amending the Adopted 2010 Lifetime Capital Budget for the North Link – UW Station to Northgate project from \$107,176,375 to \$345,499,512 to perform final design, third party coordination, property acquisition, and related tasks, and 2) amending the North Link – UW Station to Northgate 2010 annual budget by decreasing the Right of Way Acquisition and Permits phase by \$9,000,000 and increasing the Final Design phase by \$9,000,000

**It was moved by Vice Chair Butler and seconded by Boardmember Marine that Resolution No. R2010-02 be approved as presented.**

Chair Reardon announced that an affirmative vote of two-thirds of the entire Board is required to amend the budget. He asked Ms. Walker to conduct a roll call vote.

<u>Ayes</u>			<u>Nays</u>
Claudia Balducci	John Marchione	Paul Roberts	
Fred Butler	Joe Marine	Claudia Thomas	
Jan Drago	Pat McCarthy	Aaron Reardon	
Dave Enslow	Mike McGinn		
Jake Fey	Larry Phillips		

**The motion to approve Resolution No. R2010-02 was carried by the unanimous vote of 13 Boardmembers present.**

Motion No. M2010-28 – Authorizing the chief executive officer to execute an amended agreement with the National Railroad Passenger Corporation (Amtrak) for the continued maintenance of rolling stock, including the cost of fuel, for five years with one two-year option to extend and up to three one-year options to extend in an amount not to exceed \$84,509,000 for a new total authorized agreement amount not to exceed \$154,259,000

**It was moved by Vice Chair Butler, seconded by Vice Chair Thomas, and carried by the unanimous vote of all Boardmembers present that Motion No. M2010-28 be approved as presented.**

**It was moved by Chair Reardon, seconded by Boardmember Enslow, and carried by the unanimous vote of all members present that the following Boardmembers members be appointed to the Audit and Reporting Committee:**

Richard Conlin (Chair); Joe Marine (Vice Chair); Fred Butler; David Enslow; Claudia Thomas; Paul Wiesner, Citizen Oversight Panel Chair.

**Executive Session**

None.

**Other Business**

None.

**Next Meeting**

Thursday March 25, 2010  
1:30 to 4:00 p.m.  
Ruth Fisher Boardroom

**Adjourn**

The meeting was adjourned at 2:36 p.m.

APPROVED on March 25, 2010.

  
Fred Butler  
Board Vice Chair

ATTEST:

  
Marcia Walker  
Board Administrator