

SOUND TRANSIT OPERATIONS AND ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE MEETING
Summary Minutes
June 17, 2010

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 1:13 p.m. by Chair Dave Enslow, in the Ruth Fisher Boardroom, 401 South Jackson Street, Seattle, Washington.

Roll Call

Chair

(P) Dave Enslow, Sumner Mayor

Vice Chair

(A) John Marchione, Redmond Mayor

Boardmembers

(P) Fred Butler, Issaquah Deputy Council President

(P) Claudia Thomas, Lakewood Councilmember

(A) Dow Constantine, King County Executive

(P) Pete von Reichbauer, King County Councilmember

(P) Paul Roberts, Everett Council President

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

Report of the Chair

Chair Enslow announced that the agenda has been revised to add an executive session and the discussion on the Link Initial Segment Noise Mitigation has been postponed.

The July Operations and Administration Committee has been cancelled.

Reports to the Committee

Operations Report

Ridership for April was presented; total system boardings were up 1.42% in April over April of 2009 including a 1.9% increase for ST Express buses, and a .5% decrease for Sounder. Year to date system ridership is up 37.3%, the average weekday ridership for Central link in April is over 20,000.

A memo was included in Committee member's packets that responds to two questions on fares that were asked at the last Operations and Administration Committee meeting. The lost revenue due to fare evasion in the first quarter of 2010 is just over \$80,000. The fare evasion rate has dropped to 2.1% in May. The memo also includes information on the cost of enforcing fares versus the cost of fare evasion; the ratio for enforcement on Central Link is currently 14.4% but will go down in the future as the line expands.

Chair Enslow asked if Sound Transit has reached the ridership targets for Central Link; Ron Tober, Deputy CEO, responded that the original projection was a daily ridership of 21,000 weekday passengers by the time Airport Link opened. That projection was not reached, but the projection was based on 6 minute headways and the assumption that Central Link would be free in the Downtown Seattle Transit Tunnel, instead, the headways are 7.5 minutes and there is no free ride zone for Central Link. Those factors and the economy lead to that projection not being met, but the preliminary ridership levels for May are at 99% of the forecast.

Bonnie Todd, Executive Director of Operations, reviewed the April performance metrics sheet. On-time performance for April was up for Central Link and is anticipated to improve further in May. Thirty-seven buses for the ST2 service expansion and 42 replacement buses will be received this year. Sounder locomotive procurement continues, Board action will be requested later this year. The Sounder seat replacement program has completed 10 cars and will complete the remaining 31 cars by the end of the year.

Agreements with BNSF for ST2 Seattle to Tacoma Commuter Rail Expansion

Jordan Wagner, Legal Counsel, gave the Committee an update on three agreements with Burlington Northern Santa Fe that would allow four additional trips on the South Sounder line. The agreements include a Purchase and Sale Agreement, an amendment to the existing Tacoma-Seattle Service Agreement and a Joint Use Agreement. The Purchase and Sale Agreement, in the amount of \$185 million, will provide four peak-period, peak-direction week day round trips. The rights for these easements will be perpetual and are the same agreement that Sound Transit currently has with BNSF for the North Sounder line. Board action will also be requested for the first and second easements, the other two easements will be requested when environmental work is completed.

The amendment to the existing service agreement will add four round-trips to the agreement with BNSF for Sounder operations and will amend the cost model from an actual-cost model to a per-train model. The per-train model is also used on the North Sounder line.

The Joint Use Agreement will govern the improvements needed to mitigate the four easements and will cover the operations of the four easements once the current Service Agreement expires in 2040. Under this agreement, Sound Transit will be responsible for the necessary permits for the construction of track and signal work needed to mitigate the impact of the four additional trips.

The agreements will be brought to the July Board meeting for consideration. In 2011, the Board will also be asked to approve easements three and four when the environmental documentation is complete.

Chair Enslow asked about the current cost model; the direct costs are paid by Sound Transit along with a portion of the maintenance costs based on the length of track used by Sound Transit. The maintenance of way costs will be less in the future when a per-mile model is used. Chair Enslow also asked about opportunities for mid-day service; Mr. Tober explained that Sound Transit and BNSF agreements currently allow mid-day service and the agency may chose to provide that service in the future.

Business Items

Routine Items

Minutes of the May 20, 2010 Operations and Administration Committee Meeting

It was moved by Boardmember Thomas, seconded by Boardmember Butler, and carried by the unanimous vote of all Boardmembers present that the minutes of the May 20, 2010 Operations and Administration Committee meeting be approved as presented.

Motion No. M2010-61 - Authorizing the chief executive officer to execute a five-year contract with Moran Industries to rebuild 116 Sounder Heating, Ventilating and Air Conditioning units for a total authorized contract amount not to exceed \$1,098,894.

Public Comment

None.

It was moved by Boardmember Roberts, seconded by Boardmember Thomas, and carried by the unanimous vote of all Committee members present that Motion No. M2010-61 be approved as presented.

Motion No. M2010-62 - Authorizing the chief executive officer to execute a one-year contract with four one-year options with Young Electric Sign Company to provide agency-wide signage maintenance services for ST Express, Sounder, Central Link, and Tacoma Link facilities for a total authorized contract amount not to exceed \$761,939.

Public Comment

None.

It was moved by Boardmember Thomas, seconded by Boardmember Roberts, and carried by the unanimous vote of all Committee members present that Motion No. M2010-62 be approved as presented.

Non-Routine Item

Motion No. M2010-63 - Adopting the Sound Transit Service Standards and Performance Measures-2010 Edition as guidelines for the on-going evaluation of Sound Transit's express bus, commuter rail and light rail services, and replacing the 2006 Edition.

Ms. Todd introduced Vida Covington, Director of Operations Support Services who came to Sound Transit from the Charlotte Area Transit System (CATS) in Charlotte, NC.

It was moved by Boardmember Butler, seconded by Boardmember Roberts, and carried by the unanimous vote of all Committee members present that Motion No. M2010-63 be forwarded to the Board with a do-pass recommendation.

Executive Session

At 1:44 p.m., Chair Enslow announced that the Committee would convene an executive session that would last 25 minutes. Desmond Brown, Legal Counsel, announced that the purpose of the executive session is to discuss active and pending litigation to which the agency is, or is likely to become a party. The executive session is authorized under RCW 42.30.110 subsection (1)(i).

Chair Enslow reconvened the meeting at 2:07 p.m.

Other Business

None.

Next Meeting

To Be Determined

Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 2:07 p.m.

APPROVED on August 19, 2010.



Dave Enslow
Operations and Administration Committee Chair

ATTEST:



Katie Flores
Board Coordinator