



## **SOUND TRANSIT OPERATIONS AND ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE MEETING**

### **Summary Minutes**

**April 21, 2011**

#### **CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order at 1:04 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) Paul Roberts, Everett Council President*

*(P) Claudia Thomas, Lakewood Councilmember*

*(A) Pete von Reichbauer, King County Councilmember*

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

#### **REPORT OF THE CHAIR**

None.

#### **REPORTS TO THE COMMITTEE**

Celia Kupersmith, Deputy CEO, reported on the Washington State Supreme Court decision in the Freeman v. Gregoire case. Under that case, the Court was asked to prohibit any further actions to convert traffic lanes of the I-90 Lake Washington Bridge to light rail. The court issued a 7-2 decision to not prohibit Sound Transit's use of I-90 for light rail. The ruling will allow Sound Transit to proceed with agreements it has with WSDOT to construct rail in the I-90 corridor.

#### D Street to M Street Construction Update

Eric Beckman, Everett-Nisqually Project Director, gave an update on issues encountered during D Street to M Street Construction. The construction contract was given notice to proceed in November 2010.

The current project contingency has been used to deal with a missing bid item for handling sump water, the water that accumulates in construction excavation. Work on relocating and reconstructing two utility lines, a storm water line and a sanitary sewer line has had problems because of high volumes due to the project starting later than expected. A redesign was necessary and has further delayed the project and added project cost. In addition, while beginning excavation, dangerous soils have been discovered that have a higher level of contamination than the hazardous soil that was anticipated. The dangerous waste requires disposal in a certified landfill, the closest available landfill is in Oregon. The unit cost for disposing of dangerous waste is around \$450 dollars per yard; hazardous waste disposal is around \$12 per yard. During the design phase 140 soil samples were taken and none revealed dangerous waste. The contract did anticipate 91,000 tons of hazardous waste, but did not anticipate quantities of dangerous waste. The geotechnical engineer has been asked to do additional soil sampling so that Sound Transit will be aware of the full scope and can work to prevent additional time delays.

The transition from phase 1 to phase 2 has been delayed by approximately three months. Sound Transit has informed the community that as a result Pacific Avenue will not be able to be opened in time for the holiday season. Sound Transit is working with the downtown business group to do additional business mitigation. An action will be brought to the Capital Committee in May to provide extra contract contingency to cover the issues being discussed today. Project contingency will be used to cover the extra contingency needed for the contract.

Boardmember Butler asked if the designer of record would be responsible for faults in the project design. Mr. Beckman noted that the issue of liability was being pursued. Committee members also asked if any liability for dangerous waste could be assigned to prior property owners. Mr. Beckman responded that liability for the waste is being researched. Boardmember Roberts asked for a report on the amount of dangerous waste found once the final amounts are known and whether another entity is liable for the contamination.

### Operations Report

Ms. Kupersmith reported that historic artifacts from 1880s Seattle were discovered last week at a work site for the University Link light rail project. The artifacts include 31 shoes and 33 feet of boardwalk and were found 38 feet beneath the corner of Pine Street and Terry Avenue in Seattle. Sound Transit's public art program, STart, is working to install a section of the boardwalk on Capitol Hill as an educational exhibit. Many of the remaining articles will be transferred to the Burke Museum for preservation and possible exhibition.

Ms. Kupersmith also reported that the third tunnel boring machine (TBM) has arrived at the Port of Seattle. The TBM has been named "Brenda" and was trucked to the Capitol Hill Station site this weekend and will be readied to begin digging this summer. Brenda will dig a little over half a mile from the Capitol Hill Station to the existing light rail system. Once the first tunnel is complete, the machine will be extracted at the Pine Street site and trucked back to Capitol Hill to start the second tunnel. The other two tunnel boring machines "Togo" and "Balto" will dig from the University of Washington to Capitol Hill.

Bonnie Todd, Executive Director of Operations, reviewed the ridership numbers for February 2011. Ridership is up 5.9% for ST Express, 9.4% for Tacoma Link and 15.1% for Central Link compared to February 2010. Sounder ridership is down compared with February 2010, the North line ridership is down 21%, the South line was down 3%. There were no mudslides in February, the ridership decrease may be related to mudslides in January. A report will be brought to a future Operations and Administration Committee meeting on mudslides on the Sounder North line and mitigation. Ms. Todd also presented the system performance report; Sound Transit is meeting nearly all the standards except ridership and headway performance on Central Link.

Ms. Todd also reported that tenant improvements have been completed in Sound Transit offices located in the 625 Union Station building. Those improvements were negotiated into the new lease Sound Transit executed with the building owner.

Sound Transit continues to work with Pierce Transit while they use fueling facilities at the SeaTac Airport because of the refueling facility accident that occurred at their facility. Pierce Transit is using extra Sound Transit buses on the weekend to supplement their fleet so they can complete their fueling.

Sound Transit will be sending a team to compete in the APTA International Rail Rodeo being held in Boston, MA in June 2011. The team will include winners from two local rodeos, one held last week at Tacoma Link and one this week at Central Link.

Boardmember Butler asked what Sound Transit is doing to coordinate with other transit agencies' plans for dealing with the economic situation. Mike Bergman, Service Planning Manager, reported that Sound Transit met with its transit partners to review the process for dealing with transit reductions. The agencies are working to give each other advanced notice of planned reductions so service can be coordinated.

Ms. Todd also responded to questions about ridership related to fuel cost increases; the 2011 SIP was revised in early 2011 to lower ridership numbers based on actual numbers from the fourth quarter of 2010. The rise in fuel prices has not resulted in the ridership spikes that were experienced in past years.

## **BUSINESS ITEMS**

### Minutes of the March 17, 2011 Operations and Administration Committee Meeting

**It was moved by Boardmember Thomas, seconded by Boardmember Roberts, and carried by the unanimous vote of all Boardmembers present that the minutes of the March 17, 2011 Operations and Administration Committee meeting be approved as presented.**

Motion No. M2011-30 – Authorizing the chief executive officer to execute a contract with the Washington State Department of Revenue to provide tax collection and administration services and to compensate the Department for its services.

Ms. Kupersmith gave the staff presentation. The contract is for three years with automatic three-year renewals through 2029 unless either party wants to terminate. Sound Transit will reimburse the Department of Revenue (DOR) \$73.8 million over the 18-year contract term, including \$1.4 million for the 2011 fiscal year. The DOR is the only agency that has the infrastructure to collect the tax.

Boardmember Butler asked about oversight for collection of the tax; Kelly Priestly, Controller, responded that the DOR has a good process and a full audit staff.

**It was moved by Boardmember Butler, seconded by Boardmember Thomas, and carried by the unanimous vote of all Boardmembers present that Motion No. M2011-30 be forwarded to the Board with a do-pass recommendation.**

Motion No. M2011-31 – Authorizing the chief executive officer to execute an agreement with King County for the receipt of \$8,515,000 in federal grant funds to partially cover the cost of eleven new hybrid diesel-electric buses to support increased transit service in the SR 520 corridor.

Monica Overby, Grants Administrator, gave the staff presentation.

**It was moved by Boardmember Butler, seconded by Boardmember Roberts, and carried by the unanimous vote of all Boardmembers present that Motion No. M2011-31 be forwarded to the Board with a do-pass recommendation.**

## **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

None.

## **OTHER BUSINESS**

None.

**NEXT MEETING**

Thursday May 19, 2011  
1:00 to 3:30 p.m.  
Ruth Fisher Boardroom

**ADJOURN**

The meeting was adjourned at 1:57 p.m.



Dave Enslow  
Dave Enslow  
Operations and Administration Committee Chair

ATTEST:



Katie Flores  
Katie Flores  
Board Coordinator

APPROVED on May 19, 2011, KWF