

SOUND TRANSIT OPERATIONS AND ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE MEETING
Summary Minutes
May 19, 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

(P) John Marchione, Redmond Mayor

Boardmembers

(A) 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

Deputy CEO Celia Kupersmith is attending a WTS annual meeting, CEO Joni Earl has returned from medical leave and is in attendance.

Committee Chair Enslow announced Boardmember Dow Constantine resigned from the Committee due to schedule conflicts.

The Union Station 100th birthday will be celebrated Friday, May 20th in the Great Hall from 2 - 7 p.m. The celebration is hosted by the Alliance for Pioneer Square, Sound Transit, and the National Park Service and will include a scale model railroad exhibit, music, tours and exhibits for major projects in the area. A speaking program and a presentation will begin at 5 p.m.

REPORTS TO THE COMMITTEE

Sounder North Update on Mudslides

Bonnie Todd, Executive Director of Operations and Martin Young, Commuter Rail Manager gave a presentation on mudslides that have affected Sounder North.

Sounder North began service in 2003 and currently provides eight round trips between Everett and Seattle. The track is 35 miles long; 30 miles are along the coast of the Puget Sound which includes 25 miles that are prone to mudslides. Six of the eight years Sounder North has been in service have been affected by mudslides. Mr. Young reported that 70 train trips were cancelled and 10 trips were abbreviated resulting in a total of 9 days of disrupted service in the winter of 2010/2011. When trains are cancelled, Sound Transit has a formal service disruption plan that includes bus bridges. E-mail and text alerts are sent and the Sound Transit website is updated to inform riders of service disruptions. Sound Transit also notifies news outlets of the disruption. Sound Transit staff and signs also direct customers to alternate service options. Approximately 200 riders per train are impacted when service is disrupted; approximately 25% of those riders use

shuttle buses provided by Sound Transit; 75% chose to take buses on regular routes or drive. Mr. Young clarified that when Sound Transit is not able to operate, the Agency does not pay BNSF for use of the rail line. Passenger rail service cannot resume for 48 hours after a slide. Any damage to Sound Transit equipment would be covered under liability insurance carried by Sound Transit.

Walt Smith, General Director of Commuter Construction for BNSF, and Will Hultman, Vice President Geotechnical Engineer from Shannon and Wilson, spoke about the issues BNSF faces with mudslides. In 2010/2011, there have been 44 blocking events on the line between Seattle and Everett. Rainfall and snowmelt combined with geological conditions, steep slopes and inadequate drainage contribute to mudslides. Soil deposits in the corridor are a combination of harder soils with an overlay of softer soils. In the past, mudslides have been mitigated by improving surface drainage, installing catchment walls and moving the tracks onto a causeway.

A 2007 study found the highest frequency of mudslides is between North Seattle and Richmond Beach and between Edmonds and Mukilteo. Slope stability efforts are focused on these areas. Mr. Smith reviewed the causes for mudslides; the majority are caused by debris sliding down the hill in wet weather.

Mitigation measures include surface and subsurface drainage improvements, buttresses, and retaining walls to stabilize the hillside. Protective measures are implemented with include vegetation management, catchment walls and fences and improvements to catchment ditches. 13.5 miles of slide detection fencing has been installed along the corridor.

BNSF maintenance of way crews assess the damage following a mudslide and develop plans to clear debris. Most responses are coordinated through the operations center in Fort Worth, Texas. BNSF will continue to partner with stakeholders to pursue potential funding sources to implement mitigation measures.

Operations Report

Ms. Earl reported on the launch of "Togo" and "Balto" the two tunnel boring machines that will be digging from the University of Washington to Capitol Hill.

Ms. Todd reviewed the monthly ridership summary for March and the 2011 quarterly performance report. System-wide monthly ridership is up 7% over March 2010. Ridership on Sounder North was down 26%, overall Sounder ridership was down 4.6%. Central Link is up 13.6%, ST Express is up 5.8%, and Tacoma Link is up 11.6%. Sound Transit is generally meeting the performance targets with the exception of the Central Link ridership target.

Sound Transit will host the APTA multi-modal conference in August.

BUSINESS ITEMS

Minutes of the April 21, 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 April 21, 2011 Operations and Administration Committee meeting be approved as presented.

Motion No. M2011-37 – Authorizing the chief executive officer to execute a three-year contract with Resource Systems Group, Incorporated, to provide market research services to support Sound Transit ridership building initiatives on an as-needed basis for a total authorized contract amount not to exceed \$630,000.

Ron Klein, Executive Director of Communications and External Affairs, Tim Healy, Marketing and Creative Services Manager, and Brian Brooke, Research, Policy & Business Development Manager, presented Motion Nos. M2011-27 and M2011-38.

It was moved by Boardmember Roberts, seconded by Boardmember Thomas, and carried by the unanimous vote of all Boardmembers present that Motion No. M2011-37 be approved as presented.

Motion No. M2011-38 – Authorizing the chief executive officer to execute a five-year contract with EMC Research, Incorporated to provide market research services to support Sound Transit ridership building initiatives on an as-needed basis for a total authorized contract amount not to exceed \$1,500,000.

It was moved by Boardmember Roberts, seconded by Boardmember Thomas, and carried by the unanimous vote of all Boardmembers present that Motion No. M2011-38 be approved as presented.

Motion No. M2011-39 – Authorizing the chief executive officer to amend the lease with the City of Auburn for use of the Auburn Parking Garage to allow closure of the bus loop on Sundays when the farmer's market is operating.

Nancy Bennett, Property Management Manager gave the staff presentation.

It was moved by Boardmember Thomas, seconded by Committee Vice Chair Marchione, and carried by the unanimous vote of all Boardmembers present that Motion No. M2011-39 be forwarded to the Board with a do-pass recommendation.

Resolution No. R2011-03 – Amending the Adopted 2010 Annual Budget for Non-Operating Expenses from \$24,494,772 to \$39,494,772.

Brian McCartan, CFO and Desmond Brown, General Counsel, gave the staff presentation.

It was moved by Boardmember Roberts, seconded by Boardmember Thomas, and carried by the unanimous vote of all Boardmembers present that Resolution No. R2011-03 be forwarded to the Board with a do-pass recommendation.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

None.

OTHER BUSINESS

None.

NEXT MEETING

Thursday June 16, 2011
1:00 to 3:30 p.m.
Ruth Fisher Boardroom

ADJOURN

The meeting was adjourned at 2:15 p.m.



Dave Enslow
Operations and Administration Committee Chair

ATTEST:



Katie Flores
Board Coordinator

APPROVED on June 16, 2011, KWF