

SOUND TRANSIT EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

Summary Minutes

July 7, 2011

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 10:43 a.m. by Committee 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

(A) Dow Constantine, King County Executive

(P) David Enslow, Sumner Mayor

(A) Paula Hammond, WSDOT Secretary

(P) Pat McCarthy, Pierce County Executive

(P) Mike McGinn, Seattle Mayor

(P) Julia Patterson, King County Council Chair

Marcia Walker, Board Administrator, announced that a quorum of the committee was present at roll call.

REPORT OF THE CHAIR

Chair Reardon introduced special guest Amanda Thomas, eldest granddaughter of Boardmember Claudia Thomas.

Chair Reardon announced that the Committee would hear public comment on the East Link Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) due to the high level of public interest. Sound Transit staff will report on the item, followed by public comments, and end with Committee discussion.

CEO REPORT

Celia Kupersmith, Deputy Chief Executive Officer, gave the report in the absence of Joni Earl, Chief Executive Officer.

Ms. Kupersmith reported that CEO Earl executed a contract to purchase three locomotives under Resolutions 1-1 (Amended) and 78-1, in order to prevent a financial loss to the Agency.

On June 16, 2011, the Operations and Administration Committee unanimously approved Motion No. M2011-47 with a do-pass recommendation to the Board. The motion authorizes the CEO to execute a contract with MotivePower, Inc. for the purchase of Sounder locomotives. Three locomotives are needed to cover spares ratios during the existing fleet overhaul and ST2 service expansion requirements.

The motion was placed on the June 26, 2011 Board Meeting Consent Agenda, however, the meeting was later cancelled for lack of a quorum. MotivePower, Inc. advised Sound Transit that

pricing would increase on July 1, 2011 under the terms of the negotiated pricing. To avoid the increase, the contract had to be signed by June 30, 2011.

When insufficient time exists to obtain Board approval, the Board's Operating Rules and Procedures adopted in Resolution 1-1 (Amended) and the contracting authority delegated to the chief executive officer in Resolution 78-1, authorizes the chief executive officer to execute contracts for the purchase of equipment necessary to prevent a financial loss to the agency. Because the conditions required by Resolutions 1-1 and 78-1 were satisfied, the chief executive officer executed the contract.

The renovated Edmonds Sounder station will be dedicated on Friday, July 8, 2011. Station improvements include a new train platform, larger passenger loading area, and new transit shelters. A new transit center for Community Transit is also part of the dedication ceremony.

In recent weeks, Sound Transit outreach staff has attended area fairs and festivals to provide answers, give information on how to use transit, and updates on construction projects. Outreach staff has been present at the International Festival in Seatac, the Pride Festival on Capitol Hill, and the Strawberry Festival in Bellevue. Outreach staff will attend similar events throughout the summer.

REPORTS TO THE COMMITTEE

Don Billen, Link Light Rail Project Manager, Ric Ilgenfritz, Planning, Environment, and Project Development Executive Director, and James Irish, Deputy Director of Environmental Affairs and Sustainability, reported on the East Link Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS).

The East Link FEIS has been signed by WSDOT and the FTA, and is being distributed to Sound Transit's partners, participating agencies, and the public. It is also posted on Sound Transit's website. The official notice in the federal and state registers will take place on July 15, 2011.

On Wednesday, July 6, the Bellevue City Council submitted a formal Letter of Transmittal to CEO Earl that included the ARUP report previously commissioned by the Bellevue City Council to examine the B7R alternative. The letter acknowledges that costs remain a concern for the B7R alignment, an opportunity for discussion exists regarding the B2M alignment, and possible mitigation strategies for noise, visual, and traffic impacts through Bellevue.

In the May 2011 Board meeting, staff provided revised estimates of revenue, service, and costs as a result of preliminary engineering. The at-grade alternative through downtown Bellevue costs \$33 million more than the current East Link finance plan. The tunnel alternative costs \$309 million more than the current finance plan.

The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) has made a preliminary finding of engineering and operational acceptability for the conversion of the I-90 center roadway to light rail. Sound Transit has been working with the FHWA and WSDOT for several years for the installation of light rail, as well as traffic analysis, which is documented in the FEIS. FHWA's final approval of the work will follow the Federal Record of Decision for the project.

The FTA will issue a Federal Record of Decision after the Board selects the project and alignment to be built. Prior to issuing the Record of Decision, the FTA will complete the Section 4(f) and Section 106 processes for parks and historic resources. Public comment on Sound Transit's jurisdiction over these resources will be open for 45 days starting July 15, 2011.

Sound Transit has engaged communities along the project corridor in robust and extensive outreach. Staff has gathered input on 24 route alternatives at 28 open houses, hearings, and workshops. Over 65,000 residents and businesses received project mailings on a regular basis, and updates were shared with 4,553 individuals via email. Staff considered 1,887 comments during the formal review process, and heard from stakeholders and property owners at 249 meetings. Sound Transit conducted outreach to 80 social services and community providers, and attended 34 fairs and festivals.

The FEIS contains information from the Draft EIS and Supplemental Draft EIS. It also includes updated technical noise and vibration analysis consistent with lessons learned from Link. Ridership forecasts have been updated, including a forecast for the preferred alternative. New information for Section 4(f) includes a draft memorandum of agreement with FTA and the State Historic Preservation office on how Sound Transit would mitigate impacts to state historic resources. The FEIS also includes responses to all comments (roughly 1,600) received as a result of the Draft EIS and Supplement Draft EIS. Sound Transit has added one modification to the C9T tunnel alternative, a new station option on 112th SE just south of Main Street, and summarized the preliminary ARUP report.

The East Link project has a number of environmental benefits as well as impacts. Light rail will provide more reliable transit service, reduce transit travel times, and enhance accessibility across the East Link corridor. It will increase person throughput and the capacity of I-90 to carry people through the corridor. The project will reduce traffic congestion and greenhouse gas emissions. It will support regional and local land use and transportation plans. Sound Transit mitigation of impacts for restoration and wetlands will result in restorations that improve the areas.

Chair Reardon summarized the Committee's direction to staff: Continue to engage the City of Bellevue staff to explore a responsible and reasonable compromise and report progress to the Capital Committee on July 14, 2011. The Board remains committed to selecting an East Link alignment at its July 28, 2011 Board Meeting. The Board seeks a term sheet agreement with the City of Bellevue for funding the C9T route through downtown Bellevue.

BUSINESS ITEMS

Minutes from the December 2, 2010 Executive Committee meeting

It was moved by Boardmember Thomas, seconded by Boardmember McCarthy, and carried by the unanimous vote of all members present that the minutes of the December 2, 2010 Executive Committee be approved as presented.

Minutes from the March 3, 2011 Executive Committee meeting

It was moved by Boardmember McCarthy, seconded by Boardmember Patterson, and carried by the unanimous vote of all members present that the minutes of the March 3, 2011 Executive Committee be approved as presented.

OTHER BUSINESS

None.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

None

NEXT MEETING

Thursday, August 4, 2011
10:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.
Ruth Fisher Boardroom

ADJOURN

The meeting was adjourned at 11:55 pm.



Fred Butler
Executive Committee Vice Chair

ATTEST:



Marcia Walker
Board Administrator

APPROVED on October 6, 2011, MW