

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

Summary Minutes  
November 10, 2011

### **CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order at 10:39 a.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

(P) Fred Butler, Issaquah Deputy Council President

(A) 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.

### **DEPUTY CEO REPORT**

Celia Kupersmith, Deputy CEO congratulated Boardmember Marchione for being re-elected as Redmond Mayor and Boardmember Butler for being re-elected to the Issaquah City Council in Tuesday's general election.

The Columbia City Bike plaza is now open with 46 lockers and a rack for eight additional bikes. The plaza was built in partnership with the federal government, which covered 85 percent of the cost. To help celebrate the opening, Sound Transit is offering a special Bicycle Commuter Welcome Kit.

### **REPORTS TO THE COMMITTEE**

Operations Report

Mike Perry, Deputy Executive Director of Transportation and Maintenance reviewed the monthly ridership numbers and system performance numbers for September. Overall ridership is up 9.7% over September 2010. Only Tacoma Link ridership did not experience an increase over September 2010, possibly due to automatic passenger counter issues for 2011. Annual year to date ridership is up 9.4%. Average weekday boardings are up 11.3% for all modes, Sounder has increased 19.8% mainly due to increases in Sounder South. Average Saturday boardings are up 9.8%, Sunday boardings are down 6% as a result of cutting Sunday service on ST Express starting in June and fewer event trains. Performance standards are being met or close to being met on for all services. The Sounder ridership goal is not being met due to low ridership on Sounder North. Link on time performance is continuing to improve and will likely meet the goal by the end of the year.

Mr. Perry also reported on a fatal accident involving a Sounder train on November 7, 2011. The train was four miles from King Street Station heading south when it struck a person trespassing on BNSF property. Eight buses were sent to pick up Sounder passengers, but could not do so because of the location of the accident.

## Report on Transit Partner Agency Service Reductions

Mike Bergman, Service Planning Manager, gave a briefing on the transit partners' service reductions that affect Sound Transit. King County Metro, Pierce Transit and Community Transit are all struggling with the revenue loss and are faced with service cuts.

Cuts to local service by partners affect the number of passengers on connecting Sound Transit routes. In addition, service reductions by partners can result in overloads on Sound Transit routes that serve the same market.

Mr. Bergman reviewed how each agency has dealt with revenue reductions. King County Metro has postponed major service reductions by implementing efficiencies and by using funds from a county property tax. The King County Council also approved a \$20 car tab fee to pay for transit service.

Community Transit reduced service in two phases. The first phase was a 15% service reduction that began in June 2010. It ended Sunday service and reduced night service and commuter service. The elimination of Sunday service contributed to a consolidation of Sound Transit routes serving Seattle on Sunday. The change also caused the cancellation of the Sound Transit Lynnwood to Bellevue service on Sundays. Community Transit also eliminated some neighborhood route segments, and consolidated and eliminated some routes. Ridership on ST Express increased on the Everett to Seattle routes as a result. The second phase of Community Transit will be implemented in February 2012. The plan includes less frequent local service, revisions to eliminate duplication and the consolidation of commuter routes to Seattle. Service hours will decrease by 22% for a total of 37% for both phases. Sound Transit is working with Community Transit to see if the reduction in commuter trips will result in overcrowding on ST Express. Cuts to local service will reduce bus access to Sound Transit service and put more pressure on park and ride lots which are currently at 90% utilization.

Pierce Transit reduced service by 20% following a failed initiative to maintain the system and an accident at its natural gas fueling station. In October 2011, an additional 15% reduction in service took effect. Pierce Transit service has been reduced by starting later in the morning and stopping service earlier in the evening. The reductions have made connections more difficult for commuters, including riders on Pierce Transit Route 495 that serves park and ride lots and the Puyallup station. The closure of a leased lot in Puyallup and restrictions on street parking caused an increase in usage of the red lot near the Puyallup Station. The remaining route serving the red lot became overcrowded. Sound Transit has temporarily reassigned a bus to pick up passengers that couldn't be accommodated by the regular service. Route 496 that connects the Bonney Lake park and ride with the Sumner Sounder Station is scheduled to be discontinued. These cuts affect Sounder ridership and put pressure on park and ride lots.

## **PROPOSED 2012 OPERATIONS AND ADMINISTRATION BUDGET AND TRANSIT IMPROVEMENT PLAN**

Chair Enslow announced that the Committee would take action to forward the Service Delivery and Agency Administration portions of the Proposed 2012 Budget to the Executive Committee. The Committee would also take action on any amendments proposed by Committee members and changes identified by staff.

Brian McCartan, Chief Financial Officer, noted that answers to questions raised by Boardmembers at prior committee meetings were included in Boardmember packets.

The 2012 budget includes maintaining existing service as well as adding some service. The budget includes 800,000 service hours and ridership for 2012 is estimated at 25 million. The budget also includes extension of Sounder to South Tacoma and Lakewood.

### Consider Recommendation to the Executive Committee

**It was moved by Boardmember Butler and seconded by Committee Vice Chair Marchione that the 2012 Service Delivery and Agency Administration Budgets be forwarded to the Executive Committee with a do-pass recommendation.**

### Consider Committee Amendments

Boardmember Butler introduced an amendment on yellow paper to add the following language as a separate section of the budget resolution:

No later than September 2012, the CEO will submit to the Board for its consideration an action to determine whether fares should be charged for Tacoma Link or whether it should continue to be a fare-free service. This action will be coordinated with evaluation and analysis of parking policies at the Tacoma Dome Station and the Tacoma Link area in downtown Tacoma.

**It was moved by Boardmember Butler, seconded by Boardmember Thomas, and carried by the unanimous vote of all Boardmembers present that the amendment on yellow paper be approved as presented.**

### Report on Staff-Identified Changes

Chair Enslow explained that a list of additional Boardmember amendments and proposed changes identified by staff is included in members' packets on purple paper. Proposed Changes one through four were for consideration by the Operations and Administration Committee.

**It was moved by Boardmember Butler, seconded by Committee Vice Chair Marchione, and carried by unanimous vote to amend 2012 Service Delivery and Agency Administration Budgets by:**

Amending the Proposed 2012 Budget and other related text and tables to reflect the impact of all Board-approved budget amendments and related resolutions. Amend the budget, if necessary, for depreciation, non-material corrections and substitutions.

**It was moved by Boardmember Thomas, seconded by Committee Vice Chair Marchione, and carried by unanimous vote to amend 2012 Service Delivery and Agency Administration Budgets by:**

Amending the Proposed 2012 Service Delivery budgets to reclassify budget related to the Downtown Seattle Transit tunnel from the Services category to the Leases and Rentals Category. This change would be reflected in both the Central Link and the ST Express modes. This amendment would shift \$4,386,464 from ST Express Services to Leases and Rentals and \$5,934,627 from Central Link Services to Leases and Rentals. This aligns budget, cost recognition and internal and external reporting.

**It was moved by Boardmember Thomas, seconded by Committee Vice Chair Marchione, and carried by unanimous vote to amend 2012 Service Delivery and Agency Administration Budgets by:**

Increasing the Proposed 2012 Revenue Budget for Fare Revenue is Sounder and ST Express to reflect higher ridership by \$585,000. This action increases the ST Express fare revenue by \$525,000 and Sounder fare revenue by \$60,000.

**It was moved by Boardmember Butler, seconded by Committee Vice Chair Marchione, to amend 2012 Service Delivery and Agency Administration Budgets by:**

Increasing the budget for Purchased Transportation Services by \$900,000 to reflect higher hourly rates proposed by King County Metro and Community Transit. This action will increase the 2012 purchased transportation services by \$900,000 in both King County Metro and Community Transit services contracts but the distribution is currently unknown pending the outcome of the on-going negotiations.

David Huffaker, Operations Business Manager, spoke to the amendment. The amendment will provide additional money to cover cost increases for 2012 that were not known when the budget was developed. Cost submittals from the partners are given to Sound Transit in early November. Pierce Transit's cost submittal has been delayed and will be submitted on November 18, 2011 and the final amount for King

County and Community Transit is pending negotiations. The final amounts will be reported to the Operations and Administration Committee following completion of negotiations with Sound Transit's partners.

**It was carried by the unanimous vote of all Boardmembers present that the amendment be approved as presented.**

**The motion to forward the 2012 Service Delivery and Agency Administration Budgets, as amended, to the Executive Committee carried by unanimous vote.**

**BUSINESS ITEM**

Minutes of the October 27, 2011 Operations and Administration Committee Meeting

**It was moved by Committee Vice Chair Marchione, seconded by Boardmember Thomas, and carried by the unanimous vote of all Boardmembers present that the minutes of the October 27, 2011 Operations and Administration Committee meeting be approved as presented.**

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

None.

**OTHER BUSINESS**

None.

**NEXT MEETING**

Thursday December 8, 2011  
10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.  
Ruth Fisher Boardroom

**ADJOURN**

The meeting was adjourned at 11:44 a.m.



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Dave Enslow  
Operations and Administration Committee Chair

ATTEST:



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Katie Flores  
Board Coordinator

APPROVED on December 8, 2011, KWF