



SOUND TRANSIT BOARD MEETING

Summary Minutes

January 26, 2012

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 1:38 p.m. by Chair Pat McCarthy, in the Ruth Fisher Boardroom, 401 South Jackson Street, Seattle, Washington.

ROLL CALL

Chair

(P) *Pat McCarthy, Pierce County Executive*

Vice Chairs

(A) *Julia Patterson, King County Councilmember*

(P) *Aaron Reardon, Snohomish County Executive*

Boardmembers

(A) *Claudia Balducci, Bellevue Councilmember*

(P) *Fred Butler, Issaquah Deputy Council President*

(P) *Richard Conlin, Seattle Councilmember*

(A) *Dow Constantine, King County Executive*

(P) *David Enslow, City of Sumner Mayor*

(A) *Paula Hammond, WSDOT Secretary*

(P) *John Marchione, City of Redmond Mayor*

(P) *Joe Marine, City of Mukilteo Mayor*

(A) *Joe McDermott, King County Councilmember*

(P) *Mike McGinn, City of Seattle Mayor*

(P) *Mary Moss, Lakewood Councilmember*

(A) *Larry Phillips, King County Councilmember*

(P) *Paul Roberts, Everett Councilmember*

(P) *Marilyn Strickland, City of Tacoma Mayor*

(A) *Peter von Reichbauer, King County*

Councilmember

Ms. Marcia Walker, Board Administrator announced that a quorum of the Board was not present at roll call.

REPORT OF THE CHAIR

Chair McCarthy welcomed two new Boardmembers, Lakewood City Councilmember Mary Moss and Tacoma Mayor Marilyn Strickland. Boardmember Moss is filling the vacancy left by Claudia Thomas and Boardmember Strickland is replacing Boardmember Jake Fey, who asked not to be reappointed to the Board. Boardmember Moss also serves on the Pierce Transit Board, which fulfills the requirement that half of the Boardmembers from each county must also serve on a local transit agency board.

Chair McCarthy reviewed potential items for Board consideration in 2012. The economy continues to affect Sound Transit, but work is continuing to the North, South and East to deliver on the ST2 plan. East Link will begin final design, and construction will begin on North Link. Planning for the North Corridor and South Corridor continues and execution of a design/build contract for South Link is planned. Sound Transit also continues to focus on increasing ridership over the coming year.

A Board retreat is planned for April. Boardmembers will be contacted to find a date.

Chair McCarthy listed her recommendations for Committee Chairs and Vice Chairs.

Executive Committee: Pat McCarthy, Chair, and Julia Patterson and Aaron Reardon, Vice Chairs

Capital Committee: Fred Butler, Chair and Richard Conlin, Vice Chair

Operations and Administration Committee: Paul Roberts, Chair and John Marchione, Vice Chair

Audit and Reporting Committee: Dave Enslow, Chair, and Larry Phillips, Vice Chair

It was moved by Chair McCarthy, seconded by Boardmember Marine, and carried by the unanimous vote of all Boardmembers present that the Committee Chairs and Vice Chairs be appointed as presented.

Chair McCarthy also appointed the following Boardmembers to serve on the Executive Committee: Fred Butler, Dow Constantine, Dave Enslow, Paula Hammond, Mike McGinn, and Paul Roberts.

Chair McCarthy also announced that earlier this month the Puget Sound Affiliate of Susan G. Komen for the Cure awarded Ms. Earl the 2011 Susan G. Komen Promise of One Award. The award recognizes local volunteers who demonstrate the power of one person to further the Komen mission of ending breast cancer. Ms. Earl is the President of the Komen Puget Sound Board of Directors and has participated in Komen's Races for the Cure for many years. She completed the 5K race course and raised nearly \$10,000 to support breast cancer screening and treatment for low income and underserved women in the Puget Sound area.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT

Joni Earl, CEO, reported on the 2010 Fare Revenue Report included in Boardmembers' packets. The Board's fare policy calls for an annual review of fare revenues to the Board. The report provides detailed breakdowns of fare revenues in 2010 and projects fare revenues through 2012. It also includes information about fare structure, farebox recovery, and special or discounted fares. This first report took longer to prepare because changes to passes in 2010 required a multi-agency analysis to allocate revenues, and operating cost and ridership projections for 2012 were not available until late 2011.

Ms. Earl announced that Sound Transit has joined the Western Washington Clean Cities Coalition. The coalition is a public/private partnership that promotes policies and practices to reduce petroleum consumption in public and private fleets throughout the region. The coalition was formerly known as the Puget Sound Clean Cities Coalition, and is a non-profit organization that is funded by the US Department of Energy's (DOE's) Clean Cities Program and housed at the Puget Sound Clean Air Agency. By joining the Coalition, Sound Transit will benefit by receiving technical assistance, enhanced access to federal grant funds for our fleets, access to technical workshops and networking events and partnership opportunities.

Ms. Earl also reviewed Sound Transit's operations in the recent snow storm. Eighty-five percent of ST Express service was able to operate although some of the routes were truncated due to inaccessible areas. Sounder service experienced some late trains and cancellations because of frozen track switches. Central Link continued to operate with only brief closures due to ice on the overhead power lines. Tacoma Link service was suspended last Thursday afternoon for the first time in its history. Of the 154 Tacoma Link trips scheduled for Thursday, 60 were made before service was suspended. A bus bridge was in place all afternoon.

Phone calls to Sound Transit customer service staff more than doubled last week and the Agency sent out triple the number of Rider Alerts. Ms. Earl thanked staff for working to keep the service operating and keeping customers informed about the service issues. Some riders were negatively impacted, but we also received some positive customer feedback for the Agency's customer service response.

Sound Transit will also hold a groundbreaking next week with the City of Renton, and partners working on the Strander Boulevard Project.

CEO PRESENTATION ON 2011 AND 2012 SOUND TRANSIT MILESTONES

Ms. Earl reviewed the Agency's progress on the 2011 milestones and reported on the 2012 milestones. 2012 is the 11th year that Sound Transit has established agency milestones. In 2011, Sound Transit accomplished 24 out of the 32 milestones set for the year, for 75% completion. In 2011, ridership increased 11% over last year's ridership and the capital construction program remains very strong.

The Mountlake Terrace Freeway Station and Kirkland Transit Center opened for ST Express service and the Edmonds Sounder station improvements were completed. The Sounder D Street to M Street track and signal project moved closer to completion, which will allow Sounder service to extend to South Tacoma and Lakewood in 2012. ST Express weekday ridership exceeded 50,000 in 2011 and Sound Transit received 25 replacement buses.

Sound Transit and the City of Tacoma opened the new Commerce Street Station on the Tacoma Link line. Progress was made in extending Link from downtown to the University of Washington. All three TBMs began digging the University Link tunnels and all 27 University Link vehicles were delivered.

On the East Link project, preliminary engineering was substantially completed, a Final EIS was issued, Sound Transit received the FTA and Federal Highways Records of Decision, and the Board selected the East Link route and stations. In 2011, an agreement was reached with City of Bellevue to pay for and build a downtown tunnel. The Board approved extending Link from the airport to South 200th four years earlier than planned in ST2. With help from communities and leaders in the region, Sound Transit received \$10 million through a Department of Transportation TIGER grant. Competition for the grant was intense throughout the nation and Sound Transit was one of only two agencies in the state to receive funding. Progress was made on the final design of North Link; property acquisitions for the Roosevelt station have been completed, and environmental studies are underway to help identify a light rail route along the Interstate 5 corridor to the Lynnwood Transit Center.

Last year Sound Transit completed an agency Sustainability Plan that provides direction for the future. The Agency's sustainability milestones are a subset of the agency Sustainability Targets. In 2011, Sound Transit had 31 Sustainability Targets with a completion rate of about 80%.

In 2011, a new customer focused website was launched. The website makes it easier for people to get information on Sound Transit and its services. Webpage views are up 34 percent over the same time last year.

Eight 2011 milestones were not met. They include beginning final design on East Link, completing excavation and utility activities for the Sounder D Street to M Street track and signal project, completion of the Sounder Lakewood Layover yard construction, completion of study work for the ST Express and Sounder Operations and Maintenance Facilities, completing final design for the I-90 Two-Way Transit and HOV Operations Stage 3 project, and completing an agreement with the University of Washington for Brooklyn Station properties. Work on these milestones is still progressing and some have moved to 2012.

There are 33 milestones for 2012. The Agency's plans to hire 30 new employees in 2012. Another clean financial audit is anticipated and ridership is expected to reach 25.8 million riders for 2012 on all modes. Sounder service will begin to South Tacoma and Lakewood and three locomotives will be delivered. Artwork will be installed between Tacoma and Lakewood and construction will begin on the Mukilteo Sounder station south platform. Twenty-four 40-foot replacement buses will be delivered, including 22 hybrid buses and the Board is scheduled to make a decision on a ST Express bus base.

The University Link project will make major progress this year, tunneling will be completed from the University of Washington to Seattle. East Link will begin final design, and I-90 improvements between Mercer Island and Bellevue Way will be completed. The Sound Transit Board is scheduled to approve the North Link budget and baseline schedule and construction will begin. Alternatives will be identified for the North Corridor I-5 light rail Draft EIS.

The design/build contract will be brought to the Board to extend Link to south 200th Street. Alternatives analysis work will also take place to extend transit from south 200th to Kent-Des Moines. Potential transit alignments will be studied for service from Federal Way to Tacoma. Sound Transit will also identify locations and conduct environmental review for the Link Operations and Maintenance Satellite Facility.

The 2012 Milestones reflect Sound Transit's commitment to Sustainability and to Transit Oriented Development. An agreement for Capitol Hill station development will be brought to the Board in 2012 for a transit oriented development project. Sound Transit will initiate a FTA pilot project to assess potential climate change impacts to Sound Transit infrastructure. Sound Transit will also enhance current best practices for sustainable construction and integrate sustainable design criteria into our major capital projects.

Boardmember Roberts asked about future planning work for ST3; Ms. Earl noted that staff is working to return in the first quarter of 2012 with that information.

PUBLIC COMMENT

(Comments on file with the Board Administrator)

JoEthel Smith

Will Knedlik

CONSENT AGENDA

Minutes of the December 15, 2011 Board Meeting
Voucher Certification for December 1, 2011 through December 15, 2011
Voucher Certification for December 16, 2011 through December 31, 2011

It was moved by Boardmember Roberts, seconded by Boardmember Marchione, and carried by the unanimous vote of all members present that the consent agenda be approved as presented.

ACTION ITEMS

Items not referred by Committee

Motion No. M2012-03: Authorizing the chief executive officer to approve a provision in the memorandum of understanding with the BNSF Railway Company to cap Sound Transit's share of costs to install a positive train control system between Everett and Tacoma on BNSF right-of-way in an amount not to exceed \$3,900,000.

Eric Beckman, Project Director, gave the staff presentation.

It was moved by Vice Chair Butler, seconded by Boardmember Conlin, and carried by the unanimous vote of all Boardmembers present that Motion No. M2012-03 be approved as presented.

Resolution No. R2012-01: (1) authorizing the chief executive officer to acquire, dispose, or lease certain real property by negotiated purchase, by condemnation (including settlement of condemnation litigation), or by entering into administrative settlements, and to pay eligible relocation and re-establishment benefits to affected owners and tenants as necessary in order to secure property required for construction, operation, and maintenance of a potential site for the Link Light Rail Maintenance and Storage Project, and (2) requiring staff to prepare an amendment to the Adopted 2012 Budget for Board consideration within 60 days of completion of the acquisition.

Roger Hansen, Real Property Director, and Mike Williams, Light Rail Project Development Director, gave the staff presentation.

It was moved by Boardmember Marine, seconded by Boardmember Roberts, and carried by the unanimous vote of all Boardmembers present that Resolution No. R2012-01 be approved as presented.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

None.

OTHER BUSINESS

None.

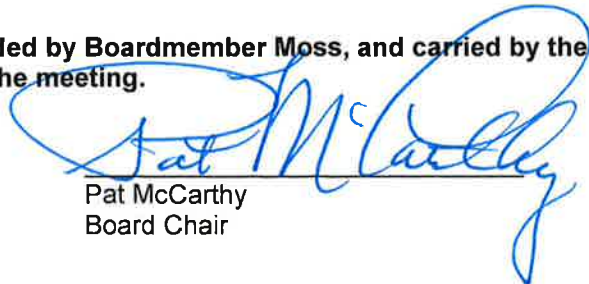
NEXT MEETING

Thursday, February 23, 2012
1:30 to 4:00 p.m.
Ruth Fisher Boardroom

ADJOURN

It was moved by Boardmember Marine, seconded by Boardmember Moss, and carried by the unanimous vote of all Boardmembers present to adjourn the meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:32 p.m.


Pat McCarthy
Board Chair

ATTEST:


Marcia Walker
Marcia Walker
Board Administrator

APPROVED on February 23, 2012, KWF