

SOUND TRANSIT EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING
Summary Minutes
March 1, 2012

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 10:37 a.m. by Committee Vice Chair Julia Patterson, in the Ruth Fisher Boardroom, 401 South Jackson Street, Seattle, Washington.

ROLL CALL

Chair

(P) Pat McCarthy, Pierce County Executive

Vice Chairs

(P) Julia Patterson, King County Councilmember

(P) Aaron Reardon, Snohomish County Executive

Boardmembers

(P) Fred Butler, Issaquah Deputy Council President

(P) Dow Constantine, King County Executive

(P) David Enslow, Sumner Mayor

(A) Paula Hammond, Washington State Secretary of Transportation

(P) Mike McGinn, Seattle Mayor

(P) Paul Roberts, Everett Councilmember

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

REPORT OF THE CHAIR

Board Retreat

The Board retreat is scheduled for April 5th from 8:30 to 4. The agenda is still being finalized.

CEO REPORT

Sounder North Line

Service has been delayed due to a mudslide in the Everett area, but service will resume in the next day or so. Community Transit buses have been deployed accommodate riders.

REPORTS TO THE COMMITTEE

Downtown Seattle Ride-Free Area Changes

CEO Earl introduced Jim Hammond, Customer Outreach Manager, Brian Brooke, Research Policy and Development Director, and Mike Perry, Deputy Executive Director of Transportation and Maintenance.

The City of Seattle and King County Metro have an agreement to provide free bus service in Downtown Seattle, known as the Ride-Free Area (RFA). In August 2011, the King County Council directed Metro to eliminate the ride-free area, effective October 2012. Sound Transit is not a party to the agreement, but Sound Transit honors it. ST Express service will be impacted by the elimination of the ride-free area. Sound Transit's options are to continue the free service or begin charging fares at the same time as King County Metro. The Board will need to amend its Fare Policy if the free service is discontinued.

Elimination of the ride-free area may increase ST Express fare revenues. However, Sounder fare revenues may decrease due to transfers. Elimination of the RFA may also decrease the number of annual boardings on ST Express by 108,000 (estimated). If the RFA is eliminated, Sound Transit will aim to minimize the dwell time while maximizing train/bus throughput in the Downtown Seattle Transit Tunnel. Operational adjustments will be made to minimize impact on Central Link and Route 550 customers and ensure a smooth transition to pay-on-entry. Route 550 is the only ST Express service that uses the tunnel.

Sound Transit and Metro are coordinating public education and outreach. Emphasis will be on Title VI populations to ensure knowledge of changes.

Sounder Stations Access and Demand Study Results

Ric Ilgenfritz, Executive Director of Planning, Environmental and Project Development, and Val Batey, Senior Transportation Planner reported the results of the Access and Demand Study.

The goal of the Access and Demand Study is to determine if Sound Transit can accommodate 2030 Sounder ridership forecasts with alternative access strategies that are less expensive and have fewer environmental impacts than adding parking stalls. The study will also help determine if access improvements can be employed at no greater cost than what is detailed in the ST2 budget for parking expansion. Some station access alternatives include pedestrian and bicycle connections/facilities, additional bus and transfer facilities, expanded kiss-and-rides, speed and reliability improvements for connecting bus routes, and off-site parking on existing bus routes during the peak periods.

Preliminary conclusions indicate alternative access improvements can accommodate a significant amount of the 2030 forecasted ridership. However, to meet the forecasted ridership, more parking spaces will be needed. The cities' land use plans to increase residential density may improve pedestrian access. Sound Transit is identifying specific projects to improve walk, bike, and feeder bus access to reduce parking demand.

BUSINESS ITEMS

Minutes from the February 2, 2012 Executive Committee meeting

It was moved by Vice Chair Reardon, seconded by Boardmember Butler, and carried by unanimous vote that the minutes of the February 2, 2012 Executive Committee be approved as presented.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

None.

OTHER BUSINESS

None.

NEXT MEETING

Board Retreat

Thursday, April 5, 2012

8:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Bell Harbor Conference Center, Sound Room

2211 Alaskan Way-Pier 66

Executive Committee Meeting

Thursday, May 3, 2012

10:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

Ruth Fisher Boardroom

ADJOURN

The meeting was adjourned at 11:52 p.m.

ATTEST:



Pat McCarthy
Executive Committee Chair



Marcia Walker
Board Administrator

APPROVED on May 3, 2012, MW