

2012 SOUND TRANSIT BOARD MEETING
Summary Minutes
May 24, 2012

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 1:36 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

(P) Julia Patterson, King County Councilmember

(P) Aaron Reardon, Snohomish County Executive

Boardmembers

(P) Claudia Balducci, Bellevue Councilmember

(P) Fred Butler, Issaquah Deputy Council President

(P) Richard Conlin, Seattle Councilmember

(P) Dow Constantine, King County Executive

(P) Dave Earling, City of Edmonds Mayor

(P) David Enslow, City of Sumner Mayor

(A) Paula Hammond, WSDOT Secretary

(P) John Marchione, City of Redmond Mayor

(P) Joe McDermott, King County Councilmember

(P) Mike McGinn, City of Seattle Mayor

(P) Mary Moss, Lakewood Councilmember

(P) Larry Phillips, King County Councilmember

(P) Paul Roberts, Everett Councilmember

(P) Marilyn Strickland, City of Tacoma Mayor

(P) Peter von Reichbauer, King County Councilmember

Ms. Katie Flores, Board Coordinator announced that a quorum of the Board was present at roll call.

REPORT OF THE CHAIR

Chair McCarthy announced that Boardmember von Reichbauer asked to participate in today's meeting by phone. The Board Rules and Operating Procedures allow members to attend meetings by teleconference with a two-thirds affirmative vote of those members in attendance.

It was moved by Boardmember Constantine, seconded by Boardmember Roberts, and carried by the unanimous vote of 13 members present that Boardmember von Reichbauer be allowed to participate in the Board meeting by telephone.

Chair McCarthy noted that the Board was working from a revised agenda; Resolution No. R2012-11 was added to the agenda as item 8.B.

Boardmember packets included two documents summarizing the key takeaways from the April Board retreat discussion on parking and transit-oriented development. They also describe next steps.

Chair McCarthy asked Boardmember Butler to give an update on the progress of the Leadership Group working with the City of Bellevue on the East Link project. Boardmembers Butler, Conlin, and von Reichbauer serve on the Leadership Group. Boardmember Butler reported that the Leadership Group has met four times and the process has been very productive. At its last meeting, the group reviewed preliminary information in the East Link Cost Savings Report. Boardmembers Conlin and von Reichbauer noted that collaboration efforts have been productive.

Boardmember von Reichbauer reported that he, Chair McCarthy, CEO Earl, the Mayor of Federal Way, and some Federal Way City Councilmembers met recently and discussed regional transportation issues.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT

Ms. Earl compared service delivery performance in the first quarter of 2012 with the first quarter of 2011. Total boardings were up 12 percent; ST Express increased by 14 percent increase, Sounder increased by 11 percent with North Sounder boardings increasing 34 percent. The strong increase in North Sounder

boardings show recovery from the mudslide-related service disruptions in 2011. Performance on both Central Link and Tacoma Link increased by 10 percent.

Earlier this month the tunnel boring machine, "Brenda," completed the second tunnel between downtown Seattle and Capitol Hill; a major University Link milestone. All of the major tunnel mining work between downtown Seattle and UW is now completed. The University Link Project is a little more than halfway complete and is on track to open in fall of 2016.

Sixty people attended the 60% design open house for Brooklyn Station last evening. The attendees had generally positive reactions to the design approach, finish details, and proposed art installation theme.

REPORTS TO THE BOARD

Financial Report

Brian McCartan, CFO, gave an update on the Agency's financial position. Revenue has been weak so far in 2012. January and February revenue are at 5% under budget due to lower sales tax revenue.

Sound Transit has recently completed an audit of the ORCA Program. The audit will be reviewed in detail at the June Audit and Reporting Committee meeting. The Agency financial statements have been reviewed and resulted in a clean opinion. In addition, the FTA has completed its review of the original Full Funding Grant Agreement and a final report will be issued soon.

Moody's is reviewing Sound Transit's credit rating and may change it based on the review. An action to refund bonds is scheduled for the June Executive Committee and Board meetings. Boardmember McGinn requested information on tax revenues by subarea.

East Link Update

Ron Lewis, Executive Project Director East Link, Don Billen, Light Rail Development Manager, and Dave Berg, Director of Transportation at the City of Bellevue gave an update on the status of the East Link Project.

Mr. Lewis reported that final design is underway from South Bellevue to the Overlake Transit Center. Procurements for final design of the I-90 portion of the project and systems final design are underway. In 2012, Sound Transit will conduct environmental review on the cost savings options identified in a proposed workplan and will work with the City of Bellevue on amendments to the City code related to light rail.

Mr. Berg reviewed the cost savings provisions in the Memorandum of Understanding between Sound Transit and the City. Once the project is baselined at 60% any decrease in the estimated cost of the project will reduce the City's contingent contribution of \$60 million. Maintaining schedule is a key component of the project and cost savings. Sound Transit and the City will publish a Cost Savings Report on June 5, 2012. The report includes estimated cost savings with each option; the estimates are based on 5% design.

Mr. Lewis reported that staff is doing outreach on the cost savings options. Approximately 200 people attended an open house on April 26, 2012. Staff recently met with some residents of the Surrey Downs neighborhood. Their concerns include noise and visual impacts, keeping South 4th Street open, eliminating the flyover option over 112th Avenue SE, relocating the station north of Main Street, property acquisition acceleration, and construction staging.

Mr. Billen explained that the cost savings options include engineering ideas that would not change the user experience or have impacts on the community or the project goals. Those measures could save \$20-24 million. Four million dollars would be saved by using a different site for the construction staging areas. A different staging site would not negatively affect the East Link Project or the City's road-widening project.

East Link Project Cost Savings Options

Option 1a: Change the alignment near the Winters House by shifting Bellevue Way by 30 feet with a retaining wall on the west. Savings estimate: \$5-8 million.

Option 1b: Relocate the Winters House and construct light rail at grade in front of the Winters House. This option extends the aerial structure north of the park and ride and replaces the retained trench section. The Enatai neighborhood would be impacted and Sound Transit would need to work with State and Federal historic agencies. Savings estimate: \$3-6 million.

Option 2a: Light rail would remain elevated over SE 8th Street to provide access to the Surrey Downs neighborhood instead of a retained cut alignment under SE 4th Street. Savings estimate: \$5-9 million.

Option 3a: Eliminate the downtown Bellevue station mezzanine so that the station would be shallower. This option would move the station entrances to within the street and closer together. It would change the station entrance by Bellevue City Hall and one entrance near NE 4th Street by Puget Sound Energy. Savings estimate: \$4-7 million.

Option 3b: Stack the downtown Bellevue station platforms to narrow the station. Savings estimate: \$8-13 million.

Option 3c: Shift the downtown Bellevue station to NE 6th Street and bring it out of the tunnel. This option would eliminate the station entrance further south. The station would be above ground, but would impact Bellevue City Hall and a property owned by King County, which could reduce the amount of savings. Savings estimate: \$10-17 million.

Option 3d: Shift the station to NE 6th Street. The alignment would run diagonally across the King County property and City of Bellevue parking garage. This option would shorten the tunnel and provide a smoother curve for the alignment.

Options 3c and 3d may affect the south end of the City of Bellevue parking garage; savings may be reduced because of these impacts.

Options that did not result in cost savings are no longer being considered. Those options include a retained cut instead of a tunnel from Main Street to NE 2nd Street and a side-running alignment on NE 6th Street in the Bel-Red corridor.

The Board discussed evaluating cost savings options. In addition to compatibility with the rest of the light rail system, operational costs and system quality should be considered.

Northgate Station Planning

Ahmad Fazel, Executive Director of Design, Engineering, and Construction Management, reviewed work on the Northgate Link Extension. Preliminary engineering began in 2003 and was completed in 2006. The Board adopted the final alignment in April 2006. Final design began in October 2010. At the June meeting, the Board will consider baselining the project. Construction is scheduled to begin later this year and service is scheduled to start in 2021.

The station at Northgate is the first station Sound Transit will construct at an existing Transit Center. An executive steering committee was established to look at integrated, multi-modal access, effective bus-rail transfers, and the neighborhood vision for Northgate. The committee includes senior managers from the City of Seattle, King County Metro and Sound Transit. The long-term ridership forecast for the Northgate Link extension is 15,000 daily boardings. There are currently 1,500 parking spaces at the Northgate Transit Center and the Transit Center has 5,000 daily boardings. Access modes for the station include pedestrian and bike access, bus service provided by King County Metro and Sound Transit, future TOD projects, passenger drop-off and pick-up zones and park and ride facilities. The station has two entrances to provide access to the park and ride facilities and TOD plans. There are 200 bicycle stalls planned. The station design accommodates a future pedestrian bridge across I-5 and bicycle improvements.

Ron Endlich, North Link Deputy Project Director, described the bicycle and pedestrian access improvements under review for the Northgate area. The area is designated as an urban center and the growth target for 2024 includes the addition of 2,500 additional housing units and 4,200 additional jobs. The City of Seattle has a sidewalk improvement plan for the Northgate neighborhood. Bicycle facilities are also being planned

by the City including a potential cycle track along 1st Avenue from 92nd to Northgate Way. King County Metro completed a feasibility study for an I-5 pedestrian bridge. Sound Transit, King County Metro and the City of Seattle also completed a joint grant request for \$1.5 million for pedestrian and bike improvements.

Kevin Desmond, King County Metro General Manager, noted that the goal for the facility is providing seamless connectivity between the different modes including a redesign of the bus system to support light rail. Currently, riders are using 1,500 parking spaces at the existing park and ride. Ridership at the park and ride needs to be maintained during construction of the Northgate light rail station. There is the opportunity for developing TOD near the station.

Mr. Fazel explained that the 1,500 spaces include 630 that are shared-used. During the six year station construction period, 430 spaces at the park and ride lot and 450 parking spaces owned by the Northgate Mall will be impacted. The executive steering committee is looking at mitigating the parking impacts. The preferred mitigation for 900 parking spaces that will be lost during construction is to construct a parking garage. The preferred location for a garage is a 1.1-acre site at Northgate Mall. The parking garage could include opportunities for shared parking, and would maintain ridership because 30% of the park and ride users access the facility by car. The garage would allow six acres of existing parking to be available for TOD. 450 parking spaces in the parking garage would be available for transit which would bring the total parking for park and ride customers to 1,544. After the Northgate Link Station opens and the TOD is constructed, the number of parking spaces will be 1,219.

Phase Gate 8 Report: Project Close Out for Completed Regional Express and Sounder Projects

Chair McCarthy announced that the Phase Gate 8 Report would be postponed to the June Board meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENT

(Comments on file with the Board Administrator)

Mark Dublin
Will Knedlik
Jorgen Bader

CONSENT AGENDA

Minutes of the April 5, 2012 Board Retreat

Voucher Certification for April 16, 2012 through April 30, 2012

Motion M2012-20: Authorizing the chief executive officer to execute an amendment to the Microsoft Corporation license for Bus Bay 1 at the Overlake Transit Center to extend the term of the license until the property is needed by Sound Transit.

Motion M2012-21: Authorizing the chief executive officer to execute an amendment to the Microsoft Corporation license for Bus Bay 2 at the Overlake Transit Center to extend the term of the license until the property is needed by Sound Transit.

Motion M2012-22: Authorizing the chief executive officer to execute a five-year contract with Stacy and Witbeck, Inc., to provide track, signal and bridge maintenance services for the Sounder Tacoma-to-Lakewood line for a total authorized contract amount not to exceed \$8,966,000.

Motion M2012-28: Authorizing the chief executive officer to (1) execute a third amendment to the cooperative agreement with the City of Lakewood in an amount not to exceed \$1,000,000; and (2) grant an airspace easement to the City for the Lakewood Pedestrian Connection Project.

It was moved by Boardmember Conlin, seconded by Boardmember Strickland, 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. M2012-31: Authorizing travel and approving payment of expenses for Boardmember Paul Roberts to attend Rail~volution in Los Angeles, California from October 14 to October 17, 2012 on behalf of Sound Transit.

It was moved by Boardmember Moss, seconded by Boardmember Strickland, and carried by unanimous vote that Motion No. M2012-31 be approved as presented.

Resolution No. R2012-11: Approving the chief executive officer's declaration of surplus real property, including the method of disposition to use future proceeds from selling the property for the open South Link-Airport Station to S 200th project or other capital projects.

Roger Hansen, Director of Real Property, gave the staff presentation. Mr. Hanson noted that the action does not dispose of the property; disposal of the property will be considered by the Board at a future meeting.

It was moved by Boardmember Patterson, seconded by Boardmember Strickland, and carried by unanimous vote that Resolution No. R2012-11 be approved as presented.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

At 4:09 p.m., Chair McCarthy announced that the Board would convene an executive session for 15 minutes to consider the purchase and price to be paid for real estate and to discuss a proposed course of action the Board may undertake whose public discussion may result in adverse legal or financial consequences to the agency and to discuss potential litigation to which the agency is likely to become a party. The executive session is authorized by RCW 42.30.110 subsection (1)(b).

At 4:20 p.m. the executive session was extended by 15 minutes.

Chair McCarthy reconvened the meeting at 4:32 p.m.

OTHER BUSINESS

None.

NEXT MEETING

Thursday June 28, 2012
1:30 to 4:00 p.m.
Ruth Fisher Boardroom

ADJOURN

It was moved by Boardmember Strickland, seconded by Boardmember Moss, and carried by unanimous vote to adjourn the meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:32 p.m.



Julia Patterson
Board Vice Chair

ATTEST:



Marcia Walker
Board Administrator

APPROVED on August 23, 2012, MW