

SOUND TRANSIT OPERATIONS AND ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE MEETING

Summary Minutes

July 5, 2012

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 1:01 p.m. by Vice Chair John Marchione, in the Ruth Fisher Boardroom, 401 South Jackson Street, Seattle, Washington.

ROLL CALL

Chair

(A) Paul Roberts, Everett Councilmember

Boardmembers

(P) Fred Butler, Issaquah Deputy Council President

(P) Dave Enslow, Sumner Mayor

(P) Joe McDermott, King County Councilmember

Vice Chair

(P) John Marchione, Redmond Mayor

(A) Mary Moss, Lakewood Councilmember

(P) Marilyn Strickland, Tacoma Mayor

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

REPORT OF THE CHAIR

Committee Vice Chair Marchione announced was chairing the meeting because Committee Chair Roberts was not able to attend the meeting.

DEPUTY CEO REPORT

Celia Kupersmith, Deputy CEO gave an update on the replacement of copper cable that was stolen from the light rail guideway. Crews began replacing the stolen ground cable and will be working two shifts five days a week until the work is completed, estimated to be eighty five days. Sound Transit is pursuing an insurance claim and the Sound Transit police force is continuing its investigation into the theft.

REPORTS TO THE COMMITTEE

Ridership and Operations Report

Mike Perry, Deputy Executive Director of Transportation and Maintenance, reported on May ridership and system performance. ST Express, Sounder, Tacoma Link and Central Link all experienced double-digit ridership increases in May 2012 over May 2011. Average weekday ridership for all modes exceeded 96,000 for the first time. ST Express average weekday ridership was just under 55,000 boardings and Central Link average weekday ridership was at 26,615 boardings. Boardings on Sounder North exceeded May 2011 by 17.6%, even with service disruptions due to mudslides on May 4, 2012 and May 5, 2012.

On ST Express, passengers per trip and farebox recovery are above the target goal. There were eight preventable accidents in May, but that target is still being met. Sounder on-time performance and percentage of scheduled trips operated are both slightly below target due to mudslides on the Sounder North line in January and May. There was also some track work performed by BNSF this spring. Six trips were missed in May because of the loss of power to BNSF communications systems.

Central Link on-time performance remains above target. The passengers per trip is slightly below the goal for Central Link as a result of lower ridership in January and February. Farebox recovery is just above target on Central Link.

The June service change went very smoothly. Sound Transit Route 596 between Bonney Lake and Sumner Station began as part of the June service change. Trips were added to ST Express Route 550 between Bellevue and Seattle and a morning trip was added to ST Express Route 577 between Federal Way and Seattle to address overcrowding. Route 578 was modified to better serve Puyallup to Seattle customers.

Sound Transit continues to coordinate with partners for the end of the ride free zone on September 29, 2012.

Parking and System Access

Ric Ilgenfritz, Executive Director of Planning, Environment and Project Development, and David Beal, Planning and Development Director reported on takeaways from the April 5, 2012 Board retreat on parking and system access issues. They described short-term actions, long-term strategy and policy efforts, and the parking pricing study.

Some short-term improvements have begun. They include restriping existing parking lots, developing a high occupancy vehicle permit system, and implementing an electronic parking availability system to improve monitoring of parking areas and provide real-time information to customers.

Future short-term actions include initiating environmental impact statement work on Sounder access options. The Sounder access and demand study profiled demand for all of the stations in the south corridor and Mukilteo station. The next step is planning work for Sumner and Puyallup for access improvements. The work will include environmental analysis and conceptual design. Other short-term actions include a joint research effort with King County Metro to prioritize non-motorized access improvement projects and revising the Sound Transit parking policy.

The revised parking policy would include parking management, planning, building, and managing additions to system access capacity. Sound Transit will coordinate parking management strategies with regional transit partners including WSDOT and the Puget Sound Regional Council. Sound Transit is also looking at leasing additional property, reviewing Sound Transit's existing properties for potential conversion to parking facilities. Once Sounder service extends to South Tacoma and Lakewood, parking demand may be reduced at the Tacoma Dome and Puyallup stations.

Potential long-term strategies include an origin/destination and mode-of-access survey. Sound Transit is pursuing the possibility of receiving a parking validation/fee payment system upgrade from ORCA vendor, but this will not be available until at least 2013. Another long-term strategy is expanded parking enforcement.

The 2010 parking pricing study results indicate that parking fees can manage demand and/or generate revenue, but require active monitoring and enforcement. The study also found that riders want revenue generated used to fund access improvements that benefit facility/service users and any payment method should be quick and convenient and not require users to return to their vehicle after payment. The study also found that parking fees of \$1.00 - \$1.50 per day would generate net revenue but not impact parking utilization or ridership. Fees of \$2.00 to \$4.00 would affect parking utilization, but would not impact ridership to the same degree.

BUSINESS ITEMS

Motion No. M2012-43: Authorizing the chief executive officer to execute a one-year contract with four one-year options with Eltec Systems, LLC, to provide routine elevator maintenance, monitoring, and on-call services for a total authorized contract amount not to exceed \$765,700.

Vicki Youngs, Facility and Asset Control Director, and John Weston, Facilities Maintenance Manager, gave the staff presentation.

It was moved by Boardmember Strickland, seconded by Boardmember McDermott, and carried by unanimous vote that Motion No. M2012-43 be approved as presented.

Motion No. M2012-44: Authorizing the chief executive officer to execute a one-year contract, with four one-year options to extend, with Seattle Maintenance Solutions to provide landscaping services for Sound Transit properties for a total authorized contract amount not to exceed \$705,071.

Nancy Bennett, Property Management Manager, gave the staff presentation.

Public Comment (Comments on file with the Board Administrator)

Paul W. Locke

It was moved by Boardmember McDermott, seconded by Boardmember Butler, and carried by unanimous vote that Motion No. M2012-44 be approved as presented.

Items for Recommendation to the Board

Resolution No. R2012-17: (1) Amending the Adopted 2012 ST Express Transit Operations budget to increase it from \$102,561,773 to \$102,726,265 to fund the ST Express cost increases for operations and maintenance of the Downtown Seattle Transit Tunnel, and (2) amending the Adopted 2012 Central Link Transit Operations budget to increase it from \$54,189,294 to \$54,411,843 to fund the Central Link cost increases for operations and maintenance of the Downtown Seattle Transit Tunnel.

Vida Covington, Operations Support Services Director, and David Huffaker, Operations Business Manager gave the staff presentation.

It was moved by Boardmember Strickland, seconded by Boardmember McDermott, and carried by unanimous vote that Resolution No. R2012-17 be forwarded to the Board with a do pass recommendation.

Motion No. M2012-45: Approving Phase 1 of the ST2 Research and Technology Program to implement improved transit customer rider technologies.

Brian McCartan, Executive Director of Finance and IT, and De Meyers, Research and Technology Program Manager, gave the staff presentation. Sound Move includes a Research and Technology Program to use for technology tools to increase ridership. The budget for the ST2 Research and Technology program was originally \$50 million, but was reduced to \$25 million through the program realignment. The Adopted 2012 Budget includes \$2.6 million. The Executive Committee asked that the program direction be reviewed by the Board; this action responds to that request.

Ms. Meyers reviewed the 2012-2015 Transit Rider Technology Strategic Plan that describes the first phase of the ST2 Research and Technology program. The first phase focuses on proven technologies to improve the rider experience as a way to increase ridership. The projects include improving transit data for riders, improving rider tools such as real time information, maps and planning tools, signage and ticket vending machine improvements, and the assessment of fare collection options.

Six full time employees will be needed for the work. They will be term-limited with only two positions continuing to support the projects in the long term. Three positions will be filled in 2012. The work compliments other customer outreach work to increase ridership.

It was moved by Boardmember Butler, seconded by Boardmember Strickland, and carried by unanimous vote that Motion No. M2012-45 be forwarded to the Board with a do pass recommendation.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

None.

OTHER BUSINESS

None.

NEXT MEETING

Thursday August 2, 2012
1:00 to 3:00 p.m.
Ruth Fisher Boardroom

ADJOURN

The meeting was adjourned at 2:31 p.m.



Paul Roberts
Operations and Administration Committee Chair

ATTEST:



Katie Flores
Board Coordinator

APPROVED on October 4, 2012, KWF