

## **BOARD WORKSHOP ON UPDATING THE SOUND TRANSIT LONG-RANGE PLAN**

### **Summary Minutes**

**July 31, 2014**

### **CALL TO ORDER**

The workshop was called to order at 1:38 p.m. by Board Chair Dow Constantine, in the Ruth Fisher Boardroom, 401 South Jackson Street, Seattle, Washington.

### **BOARDMEMBERS PRESENT**

#### Chair

(P) *Dow Constantine, King County Executive*

#### Vice Chairs

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

(P) *Paul Roberts, Everett Councilmember*

#### Boardmembers

(A) *Claudia Balducci, City of Bellevue Mayor*

(P) *Fred Butler, City of Issaquah Mayor*

(P) *Dave Earling, City of Edmonds Mayor*

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

(P) *John Lovick, Snohomish County Executive*

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

(A) *Pat McCarthy, Pierce County Executive*

(P) *Joe McDermott, King County Council Vice Chair*

(P) *Ed Murray, City of Seattle Mayor*

(A) *Mary Moss, Lakewood Councilmember*

(A) *Mike O'Brien, Seattle Councilmember*

(P) *Lynn Peterson, WSDOT Secretary (Amy Scarton attended as designee)*

(A) *Larry Phillips, King County Council Chair*

(A) *Dave Upthegrove, King County Councilmember*

(A) *Peter von Reichbauer, King County Councilmember*

### **WELCOME, PURPOSE AND OVERVIEW**

Chair Constantine welcomed Boardmembers and provided an overview of the purpose of the workshop. This workshop is a follow-up to a November 2012 workshop where the Board directed staff to begin planning for a possible system plan ballot measure in 2016. Sound Transit's Long-Range Plan must be updated prior to system planning; it was last updated in 2005.

The purposes of the workshop are to discuss the steps to updating the Long-Range Plan, initiate discussions about possible changes to the Long-Range Plan, review Sound Transit's financial information and discuss the need for obtaining additional revenue authority to fund system expansion.

### **LONG-RANGE PLANNING CONTEXT**

David Beal, Planning and Development Director, and Karen Waterman, Planning and Development Manager, reviewed Sound Transit's current Long-Range Plan and presented background and context information for updating it.

Ms. Waterman discussed the timeline for updating the Long-Range Plan in 2014. The Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (SEIS) was released on June 13, 2014. The 45-day public comment period concluded on July 28, 2014. Comments regarding the Draft SEIS will be released in September and input from the public will contribute to the Final SEIS, which is scheduled for completion in November 2014. The Board will be informed by the Final SEIS in its decisions on updates to the Long-Range Plan. The Board could adopt an updated Long-Range Plan in December 2014 or later.

Chair Constantine commented that the workshop is an opportunity for Boardmembers to discuss what additional corridors and policy updates to consider including in the Long-Range Plan and prompted Boardmembers to discuss these issues.

Boardmembers discussed the need to complete corridors along the regional spine in the existing Long-Range Plan, and possible changes to better serve areas beyond the regional spine, such as West Seattle, the Issaquah Highlands, and Paine Field. Boardmembers discussed the need to think long-term, beyond the next system plan, and to serve dense areas in the Sound Transit District and avoid creating sprawl.

Boardmembers touched on better incorporating transit-oriented development, and addressing climate change and clean energy use.

## **SYSTEM FINANCING OVERVIEW**

Brian McCartan, Executive Director of Finance and Information Technology, provided an overview of the negative financial impacts that the Great Recession had upon Sound Transit. He discussed the building blocks for financing a new system plan, the necessity of obtaining additional taxing authority in order to fund a new system plan, and revenue scenarios in which a new system plan could be financed.

Craig Davison, Executive Director of Communications and External Affairs, presented the results of a survey conducted in June 2014 with 1,000 registered voters in the Sound Transit District. According to the results of the survey, Sound Transit is experiencing the highest approval rating in agency history, and there is overall support for system expansion and for new taxing authority among survey participants. Additional public input will be available in September through the results of the Long-Range Plan Update Draft SEIS public comment period.

Boardmembers agreed with the need to collaborate with regional partners when working with legislators about obtaining additional revenue authority to fund system expansion, and emphasized that this work should begin prior to the upcoming 2015 legislative session. Boardmembers discussed strategies for gaining support from legislators and discussed the need to be bold and creative when considering ideas for possible revenue options.

Mike Harbour, Acting CEO, indicated that through the workshop discussions, Boardmembers are directing Sound Transit staff to be bold and begin engaging with regional partners and legislators regarding revenue authority to fund system expansion.

## **SUMMARY AND NEXT STEPS**

Chair Constantine thanked Boardmembers for their attendance and engagement in discussions during the workshop. Boardmembers will receive public comment information from the Draft SEIS in September and a version of the current Long-Range Plan updated with Boardmember ideas in mark-up form will be available at the next workshop in October. Staff will identify broad revenue tools for Boardmember review at the October Workshop, staff will begin working with legislators in the meantime, and Sound Transit's legislative agenda will include acquiring additional revenue authority.

The next Long-Range Plan workshop will be held on October 30, 2014, and the next regularly scheduled Board meeting will be held on August 28, 2014. Both meetings will be held in the Ruth Fisher Boardroom.

## **ADJOURN**

The workshop was adjourned at 3:25 p.m.

ATTEST:



Marcia Walker  
Board Administrator

  
Paul Roberts  
Board Vice Chair

APPROVED on October 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2014, JAT