

## **SOUND TRANSIT CAPITAL COMMITTEE MEETING**

### **Summary Minutes**

**May 14, 2015**

### **CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order at 1:32 p.m. by Committee Chair Fred Butler, in the Ruth Fisher Boardroom, 401 South Jackson Street, Seattle, Washington.

### **ROLL CALL**

#### Chair

(P) Fred Butler, Issaquah Mayor

#### Vice Chair

(A) Joe McDermott, King County Councilmember

#### Boardmembers

(A) Claudia Balducci, Bellevue Mayor

(A) Dave Earling, Edmonds Mayor

(P) John Marchione, Redmond Mayor

(P) Pat McCarthy, Pierce County Executive

(A) Mike O'Brien, Seattle Councilmember

(P) Dave Upthegrove, King County Councilmember

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

### **REPORT OF THE CHAIR**

Chair Butler commented that Sound Transit and King County Metro staff jointly presented long range and system plans at the recent Transportation Policy Board meeting and commended the agencies for their collaborative efforts in working towards a potential November 2016 public vote.

### **ACTING CEO REPORT**

Responding to Chair Butler's comments, Mike Harbour, Acting CEO, noted that meetings are held between agencies at the executive level to coordinate planning on a monthly basis.

### **REPORTS TO THE COMMITTEE**

There are no reports to the committee.

### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Alex Zimmerman, StandUP America

### **BUSINESS ITEMS**

#### Items for Committee Final Action

#### Minutes of the April 9, 2015 Capital Committee Meeting

**It was moved by Boardmember Marchione, seconded by Boardmember McCarthy, and carried by unanimous vote that the April 9, 2015 Capital Committee minutes be approved as presented.**

#### Items for Committee Final Action

Resolution No. R2015-07: Approving the chief executive officer's declaration that certain real property acquired for the Initial Segment of the Central Link Light Rail project is surplus and is no longer needed for a transit purpose.

Erick Beckman, Deputy Executive Director, Business and Construction Services, Design Engineering and Construction Management introduced Kevin Workman, Real Property Director and Patrick Sullivan, Sr. Real Property Agent who provided the staff report. Mr. Beckman announced that Mr. Workman joined Sound Transit three months ago and comes to us from the King County Parks Department.

The Real Property Utilization Committee examined four parcels along the initial segment of the Central Link light rail. The Committee, which includes Transit Oriented Development, Operations, and other departments within the agency, found that these parcels do not serve Sound Transit purposes. The parcels are valued at approximately \$1.4 million and require Board approval of the surplus property declaration. Sound Transit is reviewing for disposal of the properties that meet competitive and FTA guidelines.

**It was moved by Boardmember McCarthy, seconded by Boardmember Marchione, and carried by unanimous vote that Resolution No. R2015-07 be approved as presented.**

Motion No. M2015-40: Authorizing the chief executive officer to execute a contract with EMC Research, Inc. to provide passenger surveys, data analysis, and reporting services for the University Link Extension Before and After Study for a total authorized contract amount not to exceed \$1,500,000

Emily Yasukochi, Senior Policy Planner provided the staff report.

Ms. Yasukochi explained that the EMC Research, Inc. contract provides passenger surveys, data collection, analysis and reporting for the University Link Before and After (B&A) Study. This study is a requirement of the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) in the Full Funding Grant Agreement (FFGA) for University Link. Data is also compared with projections made during project planning and development.

The scope includes on-board surveys on all Sound Transit services and select King County Metro routes within the U-Link corridor. The first round of surveys will begin this fall before the opening of the extension. Sound Transit, at its discretion, could extend the contract to include an after study two years after the opening of U-Link. The requested amount covers the entire body of work, including the optional "After" survey services.

Ms. Yasukochi responded to a Boardmember question about the procurement by clarifying that Sound Transit received five responses and that the contract amount is reflective of the extensive amount of on-the-ground work required to obtain the 10,000 valid survey responses expected. Ms. Yasukochi further explained that the survey is an "origin destination" survey and results will be compared at a system level with the last "origin destination" survey completed in 2011-2012.

**It was moved by Boardmember McCarthy, seconded by Boardmember Marchione and carried by unanimous vote that Motion No. M2015-40 be approved as presented.**

Motion No. M2015-41: Authorizing the chief executive officer to execute a Redmond Expedited Permitting Agreement with the City of Redmond for the SR 520 to Overlake Transit Center portion of the East Link Extension in the amount of \$2,751,309, with a 10% contingency of \$275,131, for a total authorized agreement amount not to exceed \$3,026,440

Leonard McGhee, Redmond Project Manager presented the staff report.

Mr. McGhee noted that Joel Pfundt, Principal Planner from the City of Redmond was in the attendance Mr. Pfundt joined him for the presentation. This action provides expedited permitting and design review services for the Redmond portion of the SR 520 to Overlake Transit Center (E360) contract within the East Link Extension. The proposed action provides for all plan review fees including Site Plan Entitlement, building and construction plan review permits, and building and construction permit issuance through inspections for all city work.

Regional, citywide assessment fees, latecomer fees, and other one-off fees are not included in this action. The scope of the agreement includes:

The agreement dedicates city staff and key management staff to enable Sound Transit to meet scheduled milestones for this project. Phase 1 of the agreement provides funds for City staff support in 2015 for the development of the design-build process and Phase 2 supports the pre-construction and construction phases of the E360 contract.

Boardmember Marchione noted that the Redmond City Council unanimously approved this agreement in their April meeting.

**It was moved by Boardmember Marchione, seconded by Boardmember McCarthy and carried by unanimous vote that Motion No. M2015-41 be approved as presented.**

Motion No. M2015-42: Authorizing the chief executive officer to execute a one year contract with three one-year options to extend with Armand Consulting, Inc. to provide on-call services for safety & quality assurance staffing support services for a total authorized contract amount not to exceed \$1,236,884.

Salah Al-Tamimi, Director of Safety & Quality Assurance and Robert Taaffe, Senior Construction and Safety Manager presented the staff report.

This contract allows the division to supplement the current staff for safety and security certification to meet both the work demands and schedules for new programs including Eastlink, Northgate, and the University Link segments. Sound Transit will utilize full time employees to the fullest extent possible; however, some work on certain aspects of the certifications will need to be done with supplemental staff until Sound Transit acquires full time in house staff with appropriate qualifications and experience to perform this specific work.

Mr. Taaffe noted that the head of Armand Consulting has extensive experience completing safety certifications for projects with other states.

**It was moved by Boardmember McCarthy, seconded by Boardmember Marchione and carried by unanimous vote that Motion No. M2015-42 be approved as presented.**

#### Items for Recommendation to the Board

Resolution No. R2015-09: (1) Adopting the Tacoma Trestle Track & Signal Project baseline schedule and budget by (a) adopting May 2018 as the project completion milestone, (b) amending the Adopted 2015 Project Lifetime Budget from \$34,554,000 to \$120,509,000, and (c) amending the Adopted 2015 Project Annual Budget from \$15,047,000 to \$20,996,000; and (2) approving Gate 5 within Sound Transit's Phase Gate process

Melissa Flores Saxe, Project Manager and Mark Johnson, Project Director presented the staff report.

The Tacoma Trestle Track & Signal Project, a ST2 voter approved project, will replace the existing single-track wooden trestle with a new modern double-track structure along a 0.65-mile section of the Sounder South Line from the Tacoma Dome Station to East M Street in Tacoma to increase track capacity. The project received a \$10 million TIGER grant from the FTA to advance the construction completion date to May 2018. The scope of the project includes the double track bridge construction, demolition of the existing trestle, new turnouts and crossover, upgrade of railroad signals, relocation of underground utilities, and the extension of the WSDOT platform.

All required FTA and SEPA environmental clearances are complete. Permitting from the Army Corps of Engineers is expected in the fall of this year. Sound Transit continues to communicate to all interested parties through the completion of the project. Due to the geographic location of the project, a number of third party stakeholders may be impacted. In addition to Federal and State Regulatory Agencies, BNSF, WSDOT, Amtrak, the City of Tacoma, and private utility companies, a number of community groups share common interest in the project. These community groups include the Tacoma Dome Business District, adjacent property and local business owners, and the Puyallup and Nisqually Tribes. Sound Transit has conducted public open houses after each design milestone to educate the public on the design plans at each stage of the project.

Conceptual and preliminary engineering phases are complete. During these phases, Sound Transit capitalized on lessons learned from previous projects and conducted early geotechnical investigations to determine soil quality. These early investigations revealed soft soil layers, a top layer of contamination and a designated archaeological boundary on the project site. Investigation results led Sound Transit to begin a test pile program to assist in determining the drive-ability of the piles.

Sound Transit plans to construct the project in three phases. The first phase will construct the south bridge and leave the wooden trestle in operations. The second phase of the project is a reroute of existing Sounder train operations to the new south bridge and then demolition of the wooden trestle. The third phase of the project is to construct the new north bridge and platform extension. The WSDOT platform extension was not included in the original project scope; this action expands the scope to include this work. Once all phases are complete, bridge and railroad signals will undergo the certification process required for passenger and freight rail operations.

Ms. Flores Saxe addressed adjustments to the project budget resulting in an updated ST2 cost estimate of \$110,071. Sound Transit conducted a thorough risk analysis and mitigation measures are included in the proposed baseline cost estimate and schedule. Sound Transit has an 80% confidence level in the baseline cost estimate and schedule, including a construction start in early 2016 and a project completion date of May 2018. In response to a Boardmember question, Ms. Flores Saxe stated that the expected lifespan of the new bridge is 50-100 years.

Boardmember Butler noted that the staff report mentioned the need to sell additional bonds resulting in higher interest costs to the agency and sub-areas. In response, Sound Transit Director of Finance, Brian McCartan explained that additional costs are attributable to the Pierce subarea and while the subarea has sufficient financial capacity to cover the increase, it will require the issuance of additional debt. The additional bonds will cover the \$36.6 million project cost variance. Ms. Flores Saxe further explained that the variance included the fully reimbursable WSDOT platform extension (\$9 million), the Tacoma Rail right-of-way purchased earlier this year, and the additional mitigation required.

**It was moved by Boardmember McCarthy, seconded by Boardmember Marchione, and carried by unanimous vote that Resolution No. R2015-09 be forwarded to the Board with a do-pass recommendation.**

Resolution No. R2015-10: Authorizing the chief executive officer to acquire or lease certain real property interests, including acquisition by condemnation, and to reimburse eligible relocation and reestablishment expenses incurred by affected owners and tenants as necessary for the East Link Extension.

Kevin Workman, Real Property Director and Kent Melton, Real Property Deputy Director presented the staff report.

Sound transit needs to acquire eight partial properties for the East Link Extension: six for temporary construction easement rights on private properties, and two properties for temporary wetland mitigation on properties owned by the City of Bellevue. Four of the properties will have temporary poles to indicate reversible lanes along Bellevue Way. Demolition work will occur on one easement with the final easement used for construction staging on Microsoft property in Redmond. Sound Transit staff has been in contact with all property owners and sent certified letters on May 11 notifying owners of the upcoming May 28 Board Meeting. Ads will appear in the Seattle Times on May 15 and May 22, 2015.

**It was moved by Boardmember Upthegrove, seconded by Boardmember Marchione, and carried by unanimous vote that Resolution No. R2015-10 be forwarded to the Board with a do-pass recommendation.**

Motion No. M2015-43: Authorizing the chief executive officer to execute an agreement with King County to participate in King County's Mitigation Reserves Program to process a wetland mitigation payment for Easement 4 within the Sounder South Expanded Service project for a total authorized agreement amount not to exceed \$6,507,670

Melissa Flores Saxe, Project Manager and Marti Louther, Senior Environmental Planner presented the staff report.

In 2010, Sound Transit executed an agreement with BNSF to obtain additional train service from Tacoma to Seattle to meet capacity needs. The agreement required that Sound Transit obtain all required environmental clearances and permits prior to BNSF construction of track improvements. Sound Transit obtained NEPA and SEPA environmental clearances in 2013. Three acres of wetlands and streams impacted by the project require a two-part mitigation plan. The first mitigation element is the purchase of wetland mitigation credits. Historically, wetland mitigation involves the identification, design, construction of and maintenance of a Sound Transit owned mitigation site. This sometimes also requires acquisition of property. This action allows Sound Transit to participate in King County's mitigation reserves program. Through this program, Sound Transit can purchase mitigation credits calculated by the condition of the permits for the project, area, type, and impacted wetlands. Cost is relative to King County's cost to implement the required mitigation. Credits for this project are within the established budget. King County's ability to utilize economies of scale within their larger program results in cost savings to Sound Transit. This mitigation approach significantly decreases risk to the agency in that the purchase of credits alone fulfills Sound Transit's requirements for wetland mitigation.

The second element of the mitigation, involving implementation of a fish passage improvement, will be proposed in a separate action.

It was moved by Boardmember Marchione, seconded by Boardmember McCarthy, and carried by unanimous vote that Motion No. M2015-43 be forwarded to the Board with a do-pass recommendation.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

None

**OTHER BUSINESS**

None

**NEXT MEETING**

Thursday June 11, 2015  
2:30 to 5:00 p.m. \*\* Note Time Change \*\*  
Ruth Fisher Boardroom

**ADJOURN**

The meeting adjourned at 3:40 p.m.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Fred Butler  
Capital Committee Chair

ATTEST:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Kathryn Flores  
Board Administrator

APPROVED on June 11, 2015, LM