

SOUND TRANSIT BOARD MEETING
Summary Minutes
May 22, 2008

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 1:11 p.m. by Chair Greg Nickels, in the Ruth Fisher Boardroom, 401 South Jackson Street, Seattle, Washington.

Roll Call

Chair

(P) *Greg Nickels, City of Seattle Mayor*

Vice Chairs

(A) *Aaron Reardon, Snohomish County Executive*

(P) *Claudia Thomas, Lakewood Councilmember*

(P) *Julie Anderson, Tacoma City Councilmember*

(A) *Mary-Alyce Burleigh, Kirkland Councilmember*

(A) *Fred Butler, Issaquah Deputy Council President*

(P) *Richard Conlin, Seattle Councilmember*

(P) *Dow Constantine, King County Council Vice*

(P) *Chair*

(P) *Deanna Dawson, Edmonds Councilmember*

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

Paula Hammond, WSDOT Secretary

(A) *John Ladenburg, Pierce County Executive*

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

(A) *Julia Patterson, King County Council Chair*

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

(P) *Paul Roberts, Everett Councilmember*

(P) *Ron Sims, King County Executive*

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

Ms. Marcia Walker, Board Administrator announced that a quorum of the Board was not present at roll call.

Report of the Chair

Chair Nickels announced that the Board would begin with its items for discussion and take items that require action when a quorum of the Board is reached.

He reported that the public comment period on the ST2 options has begun and encouraged people to attend an open house tonight in Lynnwood. He thanked Boardmembers Constantine and Phillips for kicking off the public comment period with a press conference last week.

He noted that Boardmember Sims arrived and that a quorum of the Board was now in attendance.

Chief Executive Officer's Report

Ms. Joni Earl reported that she and Ric Ilgenfritz were in Washington, DC at the request of Senator Patti Murray to give a briefing on the Full-Funding Grant Agreement (FFGA) for University Link and a briefing on ST2. They also met with FTA Administrator Jim Simpson to discuss the schedule for applying for the University Link FFGA, and with Congressman Ric Larsen and the staff of Congressman Norm Dicks to talk about the FFGA, ST2 process, Mukilteo Station and D to M Street funding.

She also reported that the agency has received notice that a second performance audit on Sound Transit will be conducted by the state. She noted that more information on the audit is included in

Boardmember packets. The RFP has just been released for the audit and indicates that the audit is expected to take one year to complete. She also noted that once the scope of the state's audit is clear, a policy decision on conducting annual performance audits will be brought to the Audit and Reporting Subcommittee meeting and then to the Board. Sound Transit will be meeting with the state auditor to discuss annual performance audits on July 1, 2008 and that she will keep the Board posted on the audit plan.

She announced that next Saturday May 31, 2008 is the grand opening of the Mukilteo station and on June 6, 2008 there will be a groundbreaking for the Everett Parking Expansion. She also noted that a list of open houses on ST2 is in Boardmember packets.

Public Comment

(Comments on file with the Board Administrator)

Robert Scheuerman
Will Knedlik

(Boardmembers Roberts and Anderson arrived).

Crosslake Transportation Coordination

Ric Ilgenfritz, Executive Director of Policy Planning & Public Affairs, Greg Walker, Chief Policy and Planning Officer, and Matt Shelden, Senior Planner, presented a PowerPoint on the corridors crossing Lake Washington. Mr. Ilgenfritz noted that the presentation is in response to Boardmember questions about the vision for high capacity transit in the cross lake region including how service will be applied, the sequencing of capital projects and an update on where the projects stand as far as implementation.

Mr. Ilgenfritz listed the planning assumptions made for the cross lake region and explained the transit demand for the region. He explained that the vision for the cross lake corridors includes two-way HOV on I-90, an additional BRT system on the new SR 520 bridge, light rail on I-90, and improved interim bus service to meet demand and construction related impacts. He noted that there will also be increased bus service on SR 522.

Mr. Shelden shared a series of maps showing the planned improvements over several periods. Ms. Earl noted that interaction with the University of Washington Light Rail Station and SR 520 was being worked on as part of the high capacity transit study being done by Sound Transit, King County Metro, WSDOT and the University of Washington.

Mr. Shelden talked about the benefits, the mitigation efforts, and the integration that will take place for the corridors.

Mr. Ilgenfritz then talked about some of the key issues including design, maintenance, traffic and freight impacts of adding light rail to the I-90 bridge, and the timing of the R8A funding. He noted that questions remain around the route of light rail through Bellevue and whether it will be a tunnel or at grade, Sound Transit's investment in the SR 520 corridor, and implementation of the Urban Partnership Agreement.

Mr. Ilgenfritz talked about the status of the East Link project; the project is being reviewed by the Joint Transportation Committee Independent Review Team. He said that once more information from a transportation analysis is compiled, it will be presented to the Board. He concluded with a schedule of upcoming dates for consideration of a ST2 expansion plan.

Per a request by Boardmember Phillips, Mr. Ilgenfritz gave some of the history behind the R8A project on I-90. Mr. Ilgenfritz confirmed that the agency is proceeding in compliance with the I-90 agreements.

Boardmember Marchione asked if the Joint Transportation Committee Independent Review Team is looking at the technical aspects of having light rail on I-90. Mr. Ilgenfritz confirmed that they are looking at technical issues including stray current issues. Mr. Marchione also asked which agency would pay for operating expenses for capital projects completed as part of the Urban Partnership Agreement. Mr. Sheldon noted that the agreement provides capital money for the SR 520 tolling structure and buses, but that operating expenses would be covered by tolling revenue. Mr. Marchione also asked about the process for deciding on an alignment through Bellevue. James Irish, Environmental Manager for Link Light rail responded that an alignment decision will be made in conjunction with ongoing environmental work; the final Board decision will likely take place at the end of 2009.

Boardmember Conlin noted that decisions have been made by all the parties involved and that not implementing these agreements runs contrary to these historical decisions.

Boardmember Roberts asked what work had been done following the latest agreement in 2004 to address engineering issues such as stray current and weight bearing capacity issues on I-90. He felt that these unknowns will drive costs and asked where in the design process the agency currently stands. Mr. Ilgenfritz responded that during the system planning process, the issues of weight bearing capacity and the transition joint were noted; and that further work and studies have been completed on both of these issues. He noted that the project has not entered final design, but the early review of these issues as well as building reserves into the cost estimates has been done in order to develop budget estimates. Ms. Earl noted that because the final alignment has not been chosen, the more expensive elevated alignments have been used as a representative alignment.

Boardmember Hammond asked how flexible the forecasting tools have been with regard to the increase in gas prices and how the plan will respond to increased demand. Mr. Ilgenfritz said he will work on getting information back to her; he said he expected higher numbers based on the conservative modeling that was done and because modeling is an inexact science.

Boardmember Phillips said that based on the growth expected for the region, the Board needs to go forward with rail on I-90.

Action Items

Items referred by the Finance Committee

Motion No. M2008-53 – Authorizing an increase in funding authority for the agreement with the Port of Seattle for continued construction management services in support of the Airport Link Project in the amount of \$1,954,470, for a new total authorized agreement amount not to exceed \$14,644,991.

It was moved by Boardmember Enslow, seconded by Vice Chair Thomas, and carried by the unanimous vote of all Board members present that Motion No. M2008-53 be approved as presented.

Motion No. M2008-52 – Authorizing the chief executive officer to execute a contract amendment with LTK Engineering Services to complete systems design and contract documents to the Issue-for-Bid level (100%) for the University Link project in the amount of \$844,357, with a 10% contingency of \$84,436 totaling \$928,793, for a new total authorized contract amount not to exceed \$8,185,373.

Boardmember Conlin noted that he voted against this action at the committee level and is concerned that taking the systems design and contract documents to 100% involves a risk that further design work would be needed later.

It was moved by Boardmember Enslow, seconded by Vice Chair Thomas, and carried by a majority vote of all Board members present that Motion No. M2008-52 be approved as presented. Boardmember Conlin voted in the minority.

Motion No. M2008-49 – Authorizing the chief executive officer to execute a contract with Seattle Tunnel And Rail Team, Joint Venture to provide construction management services for the University Link project in the amount of \$61,361,000, with a 8.7% contingency of \$5,343,000, for a total authorized contract amount not to exceed \$66,704,000.

Chair Nickels asked Ahmad Fazel, Link Light Rail Director to explain the progress since the notification that a key member of the construction management team would not be working on the project. Mr. Fazel responded that the resume for the proposed new team member was reviewed and an interview was conducted. He reported that it would not affect the ranking of the five proposals received and recommended going forward with the contract.

It was moved by Boardmember Enslow, seconded by Vice Chair Thomas, and carried by the unanimous vote of all Board members present that Motion No. M2008-49 be approved as presented.

Executive Session

None.

Other Business

None.

Next Meeting

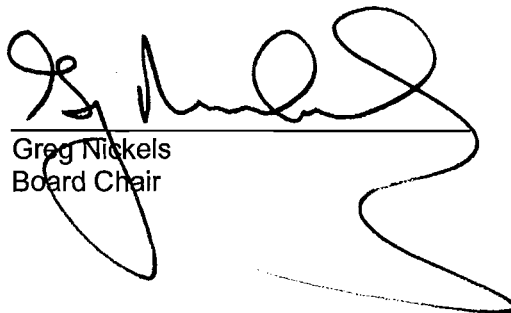
Thursday, June 12, 2008
1:00 to 4:00 p.m.
Ruth Fisher Boardroom

Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 2:15 p.m.

ATTEST:


Marcia Walker
Board Administrator


Greg Nickels
Board Chair