

SOUND TRANSIT BOARD MEETING
Summary Minutes
April 23, 2009

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 1:35 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

(P) Aaron Reardon, Snohomish County Executive

(P) Claudia Thomas, Lakewood Councilmember

(P) Julie Anderson, Tacoma Deputy Mayor

(P) Mary-Alyce Burleigh, Kirkland Councilmember

(P) Fred Butler, Issaquah Deputy Council President

(P) Richard Conlin, Seattle Council President

(P) Dow Constantine, King County Council Chair

(P) David Enslow, City of Sumner Mayor

(A) Paula Hammond, WSDOT Secretary

(P) John Marchione, City of Redmond Mayor

(P) Joe Marine, City of Mukilteo Mayor

(P) Pat McCarthy, Pierce County Executive

(A) Julia Patterson, King County Councilmember

(P) Larry Phillips, King County Councilmember

(P) Paul Roberts, Everett Councilmember

(A) Ron Sims, King County Executive

(P) Peter von Reichbauer, King County Councilmember

Ms. Marcia Walker, Board Administrator announced that a quorum of the Board was present at roll call.

Report of the Chair

Chair Nickels announced that the agenda had been revised to divide public comment into two parts, comments on action items would be taken following the CEO Report and comments on East Link would be taken following the East Link Project Discussion. Comments would be limited to two minutes per person.

Chair Nickels also announced that he was joined by Boardmembers Phillips and Constantine at an event earlier this week in inviting the public to take a free test ride during opening weekend of Link light rail starting on July 18th.

Chief Executive Officer's Report

Ms. Earl noted that a summary of the Board Retreat was included in Boardmember packets for review.

She informed the Board that the Investment Policy has been revised by the Finance Committee, based on the current financial market and changes to Sound Transit's structure since the policies were last updated in 2004. The Board delegated authority to the Finance Committee to adopt the Investment Policy, which is included in the Board's Asset Liability Management Framework.

She announced that the limited rollout of the ORCA smartcard system began this Monday. The limited rollout will continue for several weeks followed by a more extensive ORCA launch beginning in June. The phase-in of ORCA will continue through the end of the year as transit passes expire and are replaced by ORCA cards. The electronic fare system will replace about 300 various passes, tickets and transfers with a single card that works for all seven of the major public transportation agencies. Integration with the ticket vending machines for Sounder will take place on June 1, 2009 and the system will be ready for the start of revenue service on Link light rail. Ms. Earl also noted that since the rollout, 5,454 ORCA cards have been sold, \$6,320 dollars has been added to cards and the call center has received 143 calls and 127 e-mails.

Ms. Earl gave an update on the state transportation budget that is being negotiated by the House and Senate Transportation Committee; the House budget provides \$10.6m for WSDOT to continue preliminary engineering work on stages two and three of R8A (I-90 Two Way Transit and HOV Project). The House also adopted a proviso regarding the I-90 center roadway negotiations between Sound Transit and WSDOT. The proviso calls for ST and WSDOT to work in consultation with the Joint Transportation Committee to complete an independent asset analysis of the center roadway by September 1, 2009 and to negotiate a final agreement by December. The Senate version of the budget fully funded the \$40m Regional Mobility Grant Program, but the House reduced it to \$15m and removed all of Sound Transit's projects.

Public Comment on Action Items

(Comments on file with the Board Administrator)

King Cushman
Paul W. Locke

Consent Agenda

Voucher Certification for March 1, 2009 through March 15, 2009
Voucher Certification for March 16, 2009 through March 31, 2009
Minutes of the March 12, 2009 Meeting
Minutes of the March 26, 2009 Meeting

It was moved by Boardmember Butler, seconded by Boardmember Marchione, 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. M2009-36 – Authorizing the chief executive officer to adopt and implement an updated bicycle policy to replace the policy adopted in Motion No. M98-78 and superseding Motion No. M98-78.

Greg Walker, Chief Policy & Planning Officer and Matt Sheldon, Senior Planner presented the staff report. Boardmember Enslow asked if the policy includes access to stations. Mr. Sheldon responded that the policy includes language that Sound Transit will continue to work with interested parties to improve access and is interested in looking for partners to provide more access. Mr. Walker also noted that ST2 includes an annual system access program.

It was moved by Boardmember Roberts, seconded by Boardmember Marchione, and carried by the unanimous vote of all Boardmembers present that Motion No. M2009-36 be approved as presented.

Items referred by the Finance Committee

Resolution No. R2009-08 – Authorizing the chief executive officer to acquire, dispose, or lease certain real property interests by negotiated purchase, by condemnation (including settlement), by condemnation litigation, or by administrative settlement; and to pay eligible relocation and re-establishment benefits to affected parties as necessary for the Sounder Commuter Rail D to M Street Track & Signal Project.

It was moved by Vice Chair Reardon and seconded by Boardmember Butler that Resolution No. R2009-08 be approved as recommended.

Vice Chair Reardon noted that after the Finance Committee had acted on this item, Sound Transit discovered one of the property owners did not receive proper notice. He explained that the address of the property owner had changed due to a death shortly before certified letters were mailed.

Vice Chair Reardon asked that Exhibit A to Resolution No. R2009-08 be amended to remove the property identified as RW No. DM-033, TT Turner Properties, LLC, Tax Parcel number 2076170050. Sound Transit staff will return to the Board for consideration of that property after proper notice has been given.

It was moved by Vice Chair Reardon, seconded by Boardmember Butler, and carried by the unanimous vote of all Boardmembers present that Exhibit A to Resolution No. R2009-08 be amended.

It was carried by the unanimous vote of all Boardmembers present that Resolution No. R2009-08 be approved as amended.

Motion No. M2009-33 – Authorizing the chief executive officer to increase the contingency for the contract with GE Transportation Systems Global Signaling, LLC for the construction of the Train Signal System for the Central Link Light Rail Initial Segment in the amount of \$1,700,000 for a new total authorized contract amount not to exceed \$37,624,386.

It was moved by Vice Chair Reardon, seconded by Boardmember Butler, and carried by the unanimous vote of all Boardmembers present that Motion No. M2009-33 be approved as presented.

Motion No. M2009-32 – Authorizing the chief executive officer to execute a sole source contract amendment with GE Transportation Systems Global Signaling, LLC for construction of the train signal system to be integrated with the planned yard expansion for North Link and University Link in the amount of \$1,996,269, with a contingency of \$103,731, totaling \$2,100,000, for a new total authorized contract amount not to exceed \$39,724,386.

It was moved by Vice Chair Reardon, seconded by Boardmember Butler, and carried by the unanimous vote of all Boardmembers present that Motion No. M2009-32 be approved as presented.

Motion No. M2009-34 – Authorizing the chief executive officer to execute a contract amendment with Northlink Transit Partners, Joint Venture for additional funding in order to provide Early Work (Advanced Preliminary Engineering) on the North Link extension from the University of Washington Station (to the portal for the North Link tunnels near Interstate 5 and NE 76th Street in the amount of \$2,898,800, with a contingency of \$289,880 totaling \$3,188,680, for a new total authorized contract amount not to exceed \$53,529,269.

It was moved by Vice Chair Reardon, seconded by Boardmember Butler, and carried by the unanimous vote of all Boardmembers present that Motion No. M2009-34 be approved as presented.

Motion No. M2009-28 – Authorizing the chief executive officer to execute a contract amendment with HDR Engineering, Inc. to provide additional design services during construction for the M Street-to-Lakewood Track and Signal project in the amount of \$477,477 with a 10% contingency of \$47,748 totaling \$525,225 for a new total authorized contract amount not to exceed \$7,173,687.

It was moved by Vice Chair Reardon, seconded by Boardmember Butler, and carried by the unanimous vote of all Boardmembers present that Motion No. M2009-28 be approved as presented.

Motion No. M2009-29 – Authorizing the chief executive officer to execute a contract with Railworks Track Systems, Inc. to provide construction services for the M Street-to-Lakewood Track and Signal project in the amount of \$33,983,334 with a 10% contingency of \$3,398,333 for a total authorized contract amount not to exceed \$37,381,667.

It was moved by Vice Chair Reardon, seconded by Boardmember Butler, and carried by the unanimous vote of all Boardmembers present that Motion No. M2009-29 be approved as presented.

East Link Project Discussion

Don Billen, East Link Project Manager and James Irish, Environmental Manager for Link light rail presented the East Link alignment options. Mr. Irish summarized the environmental process by explaining that the preferred alternative will be described in the Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) and additional engineering work will be done on that alternative. After completion of the FEIS, the Board can select an alignment to build and a Record of Decision will be issued by the Federal Transit Administration, which will complete the federal environmental process. Mr. Billen indicated that the Board is scheduled to select a preferred alternative at the May 14, 2009 meeting. He reviewed the scope increases that have been requested, including cost information. Adding a tunnel in downtown Bellevue and extending the line past the Overlake Transit Center during ST2 are the most expensive scope increases. He also reviewed potential reductions in scope, including lower cost alignments, other design options, and station deferral.

Mr. Billen reviewed the options for Segment A including HOV ramp options and the request by Mercer Island for a parking facility.

Mr. Billen reviewed Segment B including the modifications to R8-A and the options for the center reversible HOV ramps. Boardmember Butler asked for clarification on the comments heard from community groups about the implications of closing the HOV ramps and the travel impacts of that decision. Mr. Billen noted that if the westbound HOV ramp remained open, there would not be a travel impact.

Mr. Billen noted that in the south Bellevue area, the most popular alternatives are B3 and B7. The B3 Modified proposal would move the alignment from the center of the roadway to the east side of the street to avoid street reconstruction and possible traffic improvements. Impacts to parks, wetlands, and historic buildings would need to be evaluated. North of SE 8th Street, the B3 modified proposal would add 1,000 additional feet of elevated guide way and an additional business displacement valued at \$15 million, but would reduce wetland impacts and would not impact the Bellevue Club or its expansion plans.

Mr. Billen reviewed Segment C; the popular alternatives are C2T, C3T, and C4A. He noted that the simulation shows at-grade operation can function effectively. Sound Transit is working with the City of Bellevue on a variety of issues that could affect surface operation of light rail. The surface option requires one way streets and enforcement by the City of Bellevue.

Mr. Billen reviewed tunnel construction impacts for both cut and cover construction and mined tunnel construction. The C2T tunnel would be cut and cover along 106th Street but could be mined along Main Street, the C3T tunnel could be mined. The C2T option would require demolishing and rebuilding the Bellevue Transit Center.

Mr. Billen discussed advancing two alternatives for downtown Bellevue, both could be developed to 15% design level while working with the City of Bellevue to look at additional funding proposals, and then the Board could identify a single preferred alternative to advance preliminary engineering. Advancing two alternatives would increase the preliminary engineering work by about \$3 million and extend the engineering schedule, but is within budget.

Mr. Billen reviewed Segment D. There is broad support for D2A which supports both Redmond's and Bellevue's land use visions. There have been proposals to reevaluate a station at 124th Street with either an at-grade station or a retained cut station and a small parking garage. The City of Redmond suggests moving the alignment to the north side, but the property impacts for both options are similar. Mr. Billen noted that ST2 assumed an elevated guide way, if the alignment was at-grade with a retained cut, a possible compromise could be made to build a station now, and defer the other station.

Mr. Billen noted that Segment E is not funded for construction. A modification to the E2 alternative has been suggested that would replace two stations with a single station further west at Leary Way. The Board has the option to identify a preferred location for a maintenance base, although it will not be needed for ST2.

Public Comment on Action Items

(Comments on file with the Board Administrator)

John Worthington
Todd R. Woosley
Laura Fox
Renay Bennett
Randy Bannecker, Sears Holdings
James Stone
Bob Brotien
Kristi Berry
Scott Lampe, Surrey Downs Neighborhood
Betsy Blackstock, Surrey Downs Neighborhood
Ali Biria
Elisabeth Anton, MD
Anne Kroeker
Richard Leeds

Bill Thurston, Bellevue Club

Executive Session

None.

Other Business

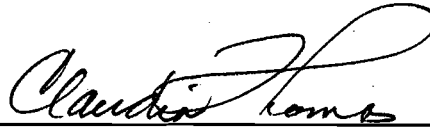
None.

Next Meeting

Thursday, May 14, 2009
1:30 to 4:00 p.m.
Ruth Fisher Boardroom

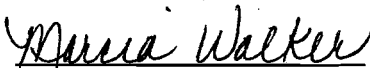
Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 4:17 p.m.



Claudia Thomas
Board Vice Chair

ATTEST:



Marcia Walker
Board Administrator