

**Sound Transit
Board Meeting Summary Minutes
January 28, 1999**

Call to Order

Board Chair Paul Miller called the meeting to order at 2:37 p.m. at the Everett Performing Arts Center, 2710 Wetmore Avenue, Everett, Washington.

Roll Call

Chair

(P) Paul Miller, City of Tacoma Councilmember

Vice Chairs

(P) Dave Earling, City of Edmonds Councilmember

(P) Greg Nickels, King County Councilmember

Board Members

(P) Ann Davis, City of Lakewood Councilmember

(P) Bob Drewel, Snohomish County Executive

(A) David Enslow, City of Sumner Councilmember

(P) Mary Gates, City of Federal Way Councilmember

(P) Jane Hague, King County Councilmember

(A) Ed Hansen, City of Everett Mayor

(A) Richard McIver, City of Seattle Councilmember

(A) Sid Morrison, WSDOT Secretary

(A) Dave Russell, City of Kirkland Councilmember

(A) Paul Schell, City of Seattle Mayor

(A) Ron Sims, King County Executive

(P) Cynthia Sullivan, King County Councilmember

(P) Doug Sutherland, Pierce County Executive

(P) Jim White, City of Kent Mayor

Report of the Chair

Mr. Miller stated that the final Public Hearing for the Link Light Rail draft environmental impact statement will be held that evening from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. at the Filipino Community Center. Mr. Miller mentioned that the Fare Policy decision will be held over until the next Board meeting.

Executive Director Report

Mr. Bob White, Executive Director, stated that the second annual Progress Report for Sound Transit would be released next week.

Consent Agenda Items

Mr. Miller advised that the Consent Agenda ratifies several items acted on by the Executive Committee after the January 14 Board meeting was cancelled. Section 16H of Resolution No. 80, Board Rules and Operating Procedures, provides for the Executive Committee to act in lieu of the RTA Board in an emergency or special circumstance, subject to ratification by the Board.

- A. Minutes of November 12 and December 10, 1998 Board Meetings
- B. The Board of the Central Puget Sound Regional Transit Authority does hereby approve the voucher certification for the period November 1 through November 30, 1998 totaling \$11,688,634.63
- C. Ratification of Actions Taken by the Executive Committee at its January 15, 1999 Meeting
 1. Resolution No. R99-1 - Authorizing the Executive Director to execute an agreement for the development, ownership, operation, maintenance and funding of the Weller Street Pedestrian Bridge
 2. Motion No. M99-4 - Allocating the Regional Express Bus Routes to the local agencies
 3. Motion No. M98-92 - Authorizing the Executive Director to execute a contract with Scheidt & Bachmann U.S.A. for the automatic fare vending equipment for the Sounder Commuter Rail service in an amount not to exceed \$8,800,000, which includes a 10% contingency
 4. Resolution No. R98-39 - Authorizing the development and implementation of a Business Support Program for small businesses and contractors to provide mentoring, accounting, management, and financial advice and technical assistance for such businesses and contractors involved in or desiring to be involved in a construction contract with Sound Transit

It was moved by Mr. Drewel and seconded by Ms. Gates, and carried by the unanimous vote of all Board members present that the consent agenda items be approved as presented.

Committee Reports

Finance Committee

Mr. Nickels stated that the Finance Committee met on January 21, 1999 and reviewed the Fare Policy and the Grant Policy recommendations from staff. They are reviewing both further and will discuss again before a recommendation goes to the Board.

Mr. Nickels mentioned that the Bond Issue closed on January 6, 1999.

Public and Government Affairs Committee

Mr. Earling thanked Board members and staff members who have worked together over the last few weeks to develop a Coordinated Regional Request for the discretionary bus funds that the transit agencies will be seeking next year. He stated that the meeting last week finalized the format that will be used for the requests. Several Board members as well as staff from Sound Transit, Pierce Transit, Community Transit, and Metro will go back to meet with the Delegation to talk about the combined appropriation request for bus funds.

Mr. Earling mentioned that on February 16, Senator Gorton's, and possibly Senator Murray's, lead staff from Washington DC will be in our area. They have specifically requested to meet with transit board members and staff members to talk about federal funding over the next several years.

He gave a brief report on the State Legislative program, stating that proof of payment and public disclosure issues have been introduced. He mentioned that the agency received a good reaction on proof of payment, but there were some issues raised on public disclosure and meetings are being set up with specific people in the Legislature to resolve the questions raised.

Executive Committee

Mr. Miller reported that at the January 15, 1999 meeting, the Executive Committee took action on the four items brought over from the cancelled Board meeting. The committee also took action to approve Board Member travel and heard a progress report on the Service Implementation Plan and Commuter Rail Construction Management Services.

He mentioned that the Committee discussed the Proposed Grant Policies that will be before the Board for action on February 11, 1999.

Report of the Study of Rainier Valley Tunnel – Link Light Rail

Executive Director Bob White reminded the Board that in August 1997, the Sound Transit Board identified a Schedule in Process that would lead the Board to make a final decision on the route, station location and profile of the central light rail line in the fall of 1999. Subsequent to that, the Board took a number of preliminary steps to lead up to the decision. In December 1997, the Board began a public outreach process regarding what alternatives should be studied and what questions should be answered about the alternatives. In May 1998, the Board looked at what was thought to be the universe of alternatives and identified approximately 19 different segment alternatives for study in the draft environmental impact statement. As the Board received more information and heard additional comments, the Board asked staff to look at variations or different alternatives in those segments and staff included those in the environmental process and asked the public to comment on them. In November the Board asked staff to prepare a detailed study of the costs and environmental consequences of building a tunnel alignment through Southeast Seattle. The Board will be receiving the report today. Ideas continue to come in to the agency, as the Board learns more, there are additional questions, additional ideas, and staff intends to continue to respond to those. In December 1998, a draft environmental impact statement was issued that reviews and documents the findings on all the alternatives that were known at that point in time. At the same time, a staff recommended Locally Preferred Alternative was identified in order to stimulate conversation. Staff and the Board members who have attended the hearings have learned a great deal. In approximately four weeks, the Board is scheduled to identify what, in the federal process, is a locally preferred alternative.

The Locally Preferred Alternative that will be identified by the Board the end of February 1999, is not a legally binding decision. It is an identification of a preferred alternative based on the information available at that time; the final decision will be in the fall of next year. Therefore, when the Board identifies the locally preferred alternative in February, the questions that are addressed in the final environmental impact statement to provide the Board with the information needed to make the ultimate decision in the fall, are probably as important as is the initial expression of preference. The questions that are asked can be forwarded and included in the final environmental impact statement. Finally, we intend to include all of the alternatives raised at that point in the final environmental impact statement and include that information in the document so that it is available to the public and the Board to make the final

decision. Today's report is, in fact, at least based on the primary alternatives raised to date. Staff will be describing the results of the report the Board asked for in November. There are still opportunities to ask additional questions and have those questions answered in the final environmental impact statement.

Mr. Paul Bay, Director of Link Light Rail, introduced Mr. James Irish, Environmental Manager.

Mr. Irish gave a presentation on the tunnel alternative covering the full length of Rainier Valley (copies on file). He stated that the cost of the tunnel would be between \$604 million and \$686 million. Mr. Irish covered many of the pros and cons of the tunnel alternative including ridership, environmental, displaced properties, noise, vibration, access, security, and construction.

Ms. Mary Jo Porter, acting Program Manager, made a presentation for an alternative on Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd. that would minimize right-of-way impacts (copy on file).

Ms. Porter introduced Mr. Jim Hebert, Hebert Research, Inc. Mr. Hebert presented the results of the survey of residents in Southeast Seattle (copy on file).

Other Business

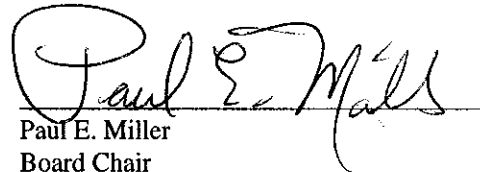
None.

Next Meeting

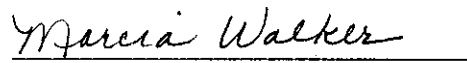
Thursday, February 11, 1999
2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.
Plymouth Congregational Church
6th & University
Seattle, WA

Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 4:00 p.m.


Paul E. Miller
Board Chair

ATTEST:



Marcia Walker
Board Administrator