

Sound Transit Citizen Oversight Panel Virtual Meeting Summary January 20, 2021

COP Members Present: Fred Auch, Scott Lampe, Dan Parker, James Peyton, Helen Powell, Bill Roach, Larry Sauvé, Joe Scorcio, Paul Thompson

COP Members Absent: Brett Johnson

Others Present: Kathy Albert, Katie Flores, Adam Montee, Taylor Wilkinson

Environmental Sustainability Management Program

- Amy Shatzkin, Deputy Director of Sustainability

Amy Shatzkin reported on Sound Transit's progress toward completing its sustainability plan, designed to improve quality of life in the region for future generations through a broad mandate to enhance people, the planet, and prosperity.

Sustainability is embedded in all of the Agency's activities and championed by Sound Transit staff. Annual sustainability targets are developed to address short term goals, which are organized around long term goals that address six key priority areas. A gap analysis is performed yearly to ensure that short and long term targets continue to address the plan's goals. More than half of the short term goals that were not initiated in 2020 are being addressed in 2021.

All capital projects include a sustainability cost allowance for green design, infrastructure and construction. In addition, the operations budget for the ST3 plan includes funding for resource conservation and pollution mitigation projects.

Projects completed in 2020 include a capital study for battery electric bus technology, which is well suited to the SR 522 bus rapid transit corridor. Service is expected to launch with ten battery electric buses, about 75 percent of the initial fleet. Sound Transit is working with its partners on shared infrastructure planning and uniform bus specifications.

In December 2020, Link became the nation's only carbon free light rail service. Light rail trains run on wind energy through an agreement with Puget Sound Energy (PSE) to purchase wind energy directly from the utility's Green Direct program. Sound Transit will receive additional renewable energy through the program to power the rest of its PSE accounts in 2021. Within the year, a 100KW solar panel installation will also be added to the Operations and Maintenance Facility East. In total, these investments will reduce Sound Transit's greenhouse gas emissions from electricity by 96 percent.

Asset Management Program

- Amy Lindblom, Director – Enterprise Asset Management

Amy Lindblom gave an update on the Agency's asset management program, which began in 2019 with the development of a four phase plan to develop, document, implement and apply best practices for asset management across the Agency, with the goal of reaching International Standard certification by December 2024. Underlying the work is a vision for transit to be as iconic an asset as the Space Needle, the Washington State Ferries, and other significant symbols of the region.

Implementing a best-in-class asset management system supports all five of the Agency's strategic priorities, by helping build a robust safety culture and stronger partnerships, bolstering employee engagement, using consistent, data-driven decision making and continuous improvement, and making efficient use of taxpayer funds. Asset management also provides a framework for managing through uncertain times by providing clear decision making processes and criteria, consistent standards and priorities, and a focus on value.

Discussion

Sustainability – COP members appreciated the update and the many notable efforts underway. Additional example, including metrics, were requested as part of future presentations.

Asset Management – Additional metrics and specific examples were also requested in future presentations on asset management. The Agency has made good progress in developing its program, but permanent metrics shared with the public would help preserve long term goals and document developing trends. The COP looks forward to the asset management plan being posted on the Sound Transit website after approval by the CEO.

The summary of the January 6, 2021, COP meeting was approved as amended.

Member Reports

Bill Roach reported that the February 3, 2021, virtual COP meeting would be his last. Bill has continued to serve on the COP since his four-year term ended in November, 2020. COP members thanked Bill for his work and look forward to celebrating with him when the Northgate Link Extension opens later in 2021.

Scott Lampe noted that the Board would be conducting a realignment workshop on January 21, 2021, from 1:00 – 4:00 PM. The South Bellevue park and ride is scheduled to open in September 2021, one and a half years prior to the opening of East Link.

2021 Focus Areas

- Adequacy and appropriateness of station access, including use of emerging technologies
- Monitoring and review of social equity, racial equity, fare enforcement, and inclusion policies
- Uses of peer comparison data
- Asset management plan progress
- Reliability and availability of federal, state, local, and third party funding sources
- Customer experience focused metrics across the RTA region and transit agencies within it
- Covid-19, contingency planning, and disaster preparedness
- Program realignment, interagency cooperation and interoperability

Outstanding Questions

- 1) How is real time service information developed and coordinated with Sound Transit's partners?
- 2) What is the cost of a structured parking stall versus a surface parking stall?

Next Virtual Meeting: Wednesday, February 3, 2021, 8:30 – 11:00 AM