



Summary Minutes

System Expansion Committee Meeting August 13, 2020

Call to order

The meeting was called to order at 1:31 p.m. by Committee Chair, Claudia Balducci virtually on WebEx.

Due to the Governor's Stay Home – Stay Healthy Order issued on March 23, 2020, public viewing of the meeting was only available via WebEx. The meeting was streamed on

<https://livestream.com/accounts/11627253/stboardmeetings/videos/209964623>.

Roll call of members

Chair	Vice Chair
(P) Claudia Balducci, King County Councilmember	(P) Victoria Woodards, Tacoma Mayor

Board Members	
(A) Nancy Backus, Auburn Mayor	(A) Kent Keel, University Place Mayor
(P) David Baker, Kenmore Mayor	(P) Nicola Smith, Lynnwood Mayor
(A) Jenny Durkan, Seattle Mayor	(P) Dave Upthegrove, King County Councilmember

Taylor Wilkinson, Board Relations Specialist, announced that a quorum of the System Expansion Committee was present at roll call.

Report of the Chair

Important Message from Board Chair – The August 27, 2020 Board of Directors meeting will include a detailed workshop on the near-term project decisions that the Board should consider for the remainder of the calendar year. In September, Chair Keel plans to discuss with the full Board which of the paused actions staff should bring to System Expansion Committee for deliberation. His expectation is that the System Expansion Committee would take up these actions in October and November. As the end of the year approaches, he will ask the Executive Committee and the Board to turn their attention to planning for continued project actions to be potentially considered in 2021. The Board will work to conclude full realignment by July.

Grant Money - The Federal Transit Administration is awarding Sound Transit \$4.8 million dollars to purchase five buses for the future Stride S3 Line on that will connect the SR 522 corridor to light rail at the Shoreline South station, including stations in Bothell, Kenmore, Lake Forest Park, and Seattle's Lake City and Jackson Park neighborhoods. Chair Balducci offered congratulations and a thank you to the talented grants team and their ongoing success securing grant funds for the agency. This year Sound Transit has submitted 13 competitive grants requests for \$93 million, and to has received \$34.5 million in awards.

Monthly Contract Report – Chair Balducci announced that the Monthly Contract Report is available for review. The report includes contracts within the CEO's authority including competitive, proprietary or sole source contracts.

CEO Report

Chief Executive Officer Peter M. Rogoff provided the CEO Report.

Federal Update - The House of Representatives passed the Moving Forward Act that includes provisions that could potentially increase the federal share for the Lynnwood Link and Federal Way Link Full Funding Grant Agreements (FFGA). The House transportation appropriations subcommittee also proposed significantly higher funding levels for the Capital Investment Grant program to accommodate these potential grant amendments. These provisions have a long way to go in the legislative process so Sound Transit will keep the Washington State delegation well-informed and engaged. Mr. Rogoff thanked all of the Board members for signing a letter to the delegation thanking them and urging their continued support to see if it's possible to enact these provisions into law.

Realignment - March was the last time that the Board considered actions for projects not already in construction. The Board struggled with whether to advance Sounder fleet purchase and the Auburn parking and access project given the developing recession. As a result, Mr. Rogoff announced to the Board Committees and the Full Board a pause on bringing forward further actions to advance projects. With the realignment path forward in place, the Board is now in position to again consider the near term, 2020 actions. At the workshop the will review with the status of the capital program and preview the types of actions the Board could consider through the remainder of the year. Mr. Rogoff is asking staff in the workshop to outline the cost and schedule implications of each action and how they contribute to system expansion by mode. Staff will also describe the schedule impacts projects not yet in construction are experiencing.

The preparation of environmental documents is delayed because both FTA and tribal nations are focused on COVID relief and have reduced capacity to review Sound Transit's draft documents. Giving the Board time to develop a strategy for realignment through temporary pauses means that in some cases completion dates will be impacted. The agency prioritized continuing construction on many projects. Forty miles of light rail and twenty eight stations are under construction.

Bus Base North – Planning continues for the Bus Base North, a new bus base in Bothell, north of the Canyon Park Park-and-Ride, to support the BRT program. Staff evaluated multiple sites for the project, including working with the City of Bothell on a proposed Canyon Park site. The Canyon Park site, identified during the ST3 planning process, performed the best in subsequent evaluation. Over the past year, Sound Transit has studied potential environmental impacts of the project at the Canyon Park site. The agency distributed a SEPA Checklist and Determination of Nonsignificance. City of Bothell staff collaboration was instrumental in completing the checklist. The public comment period for the environmental process closes on August 24th. At the city's request, the agency continues to explore creative options with Bothell staff regarding their development vision in the Canyon Park area, which is hoped to conclude soon with an agreed-upon path toward future permitting. This is a significant step towards completing the project development phase.

Federal Update - Congress and the Administration are struggling to find common ground on the size and scope of the next COVID relief package. Before the July break, the House passed a \$3 trillion dollar relief package. The agency is very focused on a provision in the House bill that would authorize and provide funding for an increase in the federal share of two Full Funding Grant Agreements. The Board sent a letter to the delegation endorsing these provisions, which could generate \$1.9 billion in additional funding for Sound Transit. Mr. Rogoff met with Senator Cantwell and Senator Murray about the need for additional transit funding and in particular, about the provision in the House bill that would provide significant funding through two FFGAs. The agency also started some early conversations about increasing our participation in the TIFIA program through refinancing our existing loans and possibly adding scope to those loans. With the large capital program, Sound Transit is in a unique position to help with recovery efforts in this region, as done in the aftermath of the last recession.

Public comment

Committee Chair Balducci noted that due to the Governor's order the Board is only accepting public comment via email. Board members did not receive any comments submitted before the meeting by email.

Business items

For Committee Final Action

Minutes: July 9, 2020 System Expansion Committee meeting

It was moved by Boardmember Baker, seconded by Boardmember Woodards and carried by unanimous vote that the minutes of the July 9, 2020 System Expansion Committee meeting be approved as presented.

For Recommendation to the Board

Motion No. M2020-46: Authorizing the chief executive officer to execute a commercial lease agreement for 32 months with two six-month options to extend with the Shoreline School District to provide a construction staging area for the NE 200th Street to Lynnwood Transit Center contract within the Lynnwood Link Extension for a total authorized amount not to exceed \$1,552,720.

Jonathan Gabelein, Principal Construction Manager and Nancy Bennet, Property Management Manager, provided the staff presentation and responded to Boardmember questions.

Motion No. M2020-46 was moved by Boardmember Baker and seconded by Boardmember Backus. Chair Balducci called for a roll call vote.

Ayes

David Baker
Nicola Smith
Dave Upthegrove
Victoria Woodards
Claudia Balducci

Nays

It was carried by unanimous vote of the five Boardmembers present that Motion No. M2020-46 be approved as presented.

Motion No. M2020-47: Authorizing the chief executive officer to execute a funding agreement with the City of Seattle for the City to pay Sound Transit for removal of landfill material from WSDOT right of way at the Midway Landfill site as part of the Federal Way Link Extension in the amount of \$13,348,027.

Joseph Gildner, Interim Executive Project Director - Federal Way Link Extension, to provide the staff presentation on the Federal Way Link Extension project and motions M2020-47 and M2020-48.

Mr. Gildner reviewed the extension project and a brief snapshot of its schedule. The project's design was roughly 70 percent complete. All major land use permits were acquired, and other key permit acquisition were underway, 93 percent of parcel acquisition was complete as well. He explained alternative technical concepts within the design work, and outlined the contract provisions which inform approval of them. He then gave some examples of conditionally approved ATCs. He provided examples of construction progress, citing the Kent/Des Moines station staging area, the Midway Landfill, and the Federal Way Transit Center. He advised that both Sound Transit and WSDOT were conducting capital projects at the Midway Landfill location. He reviewed various community outreach efforts, emphasizing issues caused by construction as it ramps up. He then addressed key issues and challenges remaining.

Both actions for consideration at the meeting related to the Midway Landfill. He explained that the extension utilized an alternative technical concept offered by Kiewit Construction, opting to create an at

grade alignment. He explained the details of each funding agreement. Informing the committee that the ATC allowed for selection of the Midway Landfill site for the Operations and Maintenance Facility – South.

Boardmember Woodards appreciated the report, and said she drove along the highway and appreciates having a deeper understanding of the construction.

Boardmember Upthegrove expressed appreciation for the presentation and aerial photos and was supportive of the design changes being advanced in Motion No. M2020-47 and Motion No. M2020-48. CEO Rogoff agreed that the end result will be a design that's far superior to what was originally planned.

Chair Balducci asked if the work would make future construction of the OMF-S at that site any more difficult. Mr. Gildner assured the committee that the design would have no undue burden on future construction. Chair Balducci appreciated the kind of creativity that is possible with the alternative concept process.

Motion No. M2020-47 was moved by Boardmember Upthegrove and seconded by Boardmember Baker. Chair Balducci called for a roll call vote.

Ayes

David Baker
Nicola Smith
Dave Upthegrove
Victoria Woodards
Claudia Balducci

Nays

It was carried by unanimous vote of the five Boardmembers present that Motion No. M2020-47 be forwarded to the Board with a do pass recommendation.

Motion No. M2020-48: Authorizing the chief executive officer to execute a funding agreement with Washington State Department of Transportation to pay Sound Transit for construction of certain elements of the SR 509 Completion Project work on Washington State Department of Transportation property at the Midway Landfill as part of the Federal Way Link Extension Project for a not to exceed amount of \$420,000.the chief executive officer to execute a Partnering Agreement with the Port of Seattle and Northwest Seaport Alliance for the West Seattle and Ballard Link Extensions project.

Motion No. M2020-48 was moved by Boardmember Upthegrove and seconded by Boardmember Woodards. Chair Balducci called for a roll call vote.

Ayes

David Baker
Nicola Smith
Dave Upthegrove
Victoria Woodards
Claudia Balducci

Nays

It was carried by unanimous vote of the five Boardmembers present that Motion No. M2020-48 be forwarded to the Board with a do pass recommendation.

Reports to the committee

Workforce Initiatives

CEO Rogoff stated that through the Design for Growth initiative, Sound Transit recognized the need for a department whose singular focus was Labor Relations. In May of this year, The Office of Labor

Relations was created and Leslie Jones was asked to lead this new department. The work that the Office of Labor Relations is performing is critical to ensuring we have a supply of skilled workforce that is diverse and reflective of the region, and Leslie and her team have a proven track record of working well and closely with contractors, educators, and the community. The agency has a goal to have 33 percent or more of the total hours worked on Sound Transit projects be worked by low-income people, women and people of color. With this new Department, the agency will have even more opportunity to attract and retain people of color and women in the construction workforce pipeline. Having this laser focus will allow the bandwidth and resources to make even more progress to achieving the agency's ambitious goals.

Leslie Jones, Chief Labor Relations Officer, and Chris Elwell, Deputy Director of Labor Compliance, provided the update on the strategic initiatives that have been put in place to address the construction labor shortage and build and sustain a skilled workforce. Mr. Elwell reviewed highlights of a workforce comparison between 2017 and 2019. He gave an overview of the upcoming needs for FTE Positions and total number of construction workers into the future. He reviewed statistics for upcoming construction needs.

Boardmember Balducci asked how a person would enter into the apprenticeship programs. Ms. Jones referenced the Sound Transit 2020 Construction Apprenticeship Guidebook outlining all jobs, the requirements for each, details of the profession, and potential salaries. Boardmember Smith thanked staff for meeting with her and Edmonds Community College and expressed her excitement for the future collaboration. Mr. Rogoff advised that all data shared was pre-COVID-19, but the challenges of ensuring equitable access to these programs would remain a challenge.

Executive session

None.

Other business

None.

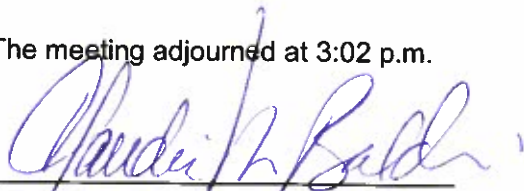
Next meeting

Thursday, September 10, 2020
1:30 to 4:00 p.m.
WebEx Event

Committee Chair Balducci noted that if the committee is not able to have an in-person meeting, a virtual meeting will be held. Information will be provided on the Sound Transit website.

Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 3:02 p.m.



Claudia Balducci
System Expansion Committee Chair

ATTEST:



Kathryn Flores
Board Administrator

APPROVED on September 10, 2020, TW