



Summary Minutes

Executive Committee Meeting September 10, 2020

Call to order

The meeting was called to order at 10:42 a.m. by Committee Chair Kent Keel virtually on WebEx.

Due to the Governor’s Safe Start, Stay Healthy Order, public viewing of the meeting was only available via WebEx. The meeting was streamed on

<https://soundtransit.webex.com/soundtransit/onstage/g.php?MTID=eedf9020c06fc41561e3b47d1d573d940>

Roll call of members

Chair	Vice Chair
(P) Kent Keel, University Place Councilmember	(P) Paul Roberts, Everett Councilmember (P) Dow Constantine, King County Executive

Board Members	
(P) Claudia Balducci, King County Councilmember	(A) Jenny Durkan, Seattle Mayor
(P) Bruce Dammeier, Pierce County Executive	(P) Roger Millar, WSDOT Secretary
	(A) Dave Somers, Snohomish County Executive
	(A) Victoria Woodards, Tacoma Mayor

Katie Flores, Board Administrator, announced that a quorum of the Committee was present at roll call.

Report of the Chair

Chair Keel announced that the CEO Monthly Contract Report was available for review.

He also advised that a discussion of all previously paused capital projects would take place later in the meeting.

CEO Report

CEO Peter Rogoff gave the CEO Report.

Fare Enforcement – Mr. Rogoff reminded the committee that in March, the Board reviewed proposals from staff to make the agency’s fare enforcement program more equitable. Due to COVID-19 restrictions on the actions public agencies could take, the Board postponed any decisions until after those restrictions were lifted. The pause provided an opportunity for further review and refinement of the work, as national awareness of structural racism heightened in the wake of the murders of George Floyd and other African Americans. In that time, five proposals were identified which would be brought to the Board in October.

Boardmember Balducci questioned whether fare enforcement activities had an effect on fare compliance and asked the Board to question that assumption as well.

Current Capital Program Summary – In the early hours of the morning on Thursday September 3, 2020, light rail construction teams connected the Lynnwood Link Extension project to the Northgate Link Extension project, installing the tub girders at the end of each segment to join the two projects. Mr.

Rogoff informed the Committee that construction would begin to become more visible along the South corridor and to the East in Redmond as those projects began to take shape.

Public comment

Chair Keel announced that in compliance with Motion No. M2020-23, public comment would only be accepted via email to emailtheboard@soundtransit.org. The following people submitted email public comments prior to the meeting:

Sumner Mayor Bill Pugh, on behalf of the City of Sumner.

Business items

Items for Committee final action

August 6, 2020, Executive Committee meeting minutes

The minutes of the August 6, 2020 Executive Committee were moved by Vice-Chair Roberts and seconded by Boardmember Balducci.

Chair Keel called for a roll call vote:

Ayes

Claudia Balducci
Dow Constantine
Bruce Dammeier
Roger Millar
Paul Roberts
Kent Keel

Nays

It was carried by majority vote of the Board members present that minutes of the August 6, 2020 Executive Committee meeting were approved as presented.

Reports to the Board

Realignment and Capital Program next steps

Chair Keel prefaced the presentation, reminding the Committee of the steps taken by the Board to that point and the plan moving forward. He reiterated that any steps to advance actions which were paused earlier in the year did not determine the project's ultimate timeline, as those decisions would be made in 2021.

During the presentation, Sound Transit staff would make recommendations on which paused projects to advance and which to delay. Chair Keel would listen to the comments and draft a memo, which would be followed by the introduction of a motion at the September Board meeting, recommending which projects should come before the System Expansion Committee in the final months of the year.

CEO Rogoff advised that staff's recommendations were practical in nature. The analysis focused on which actions could help inform the Board in making realignment choices in 2021, which projects could benefit from waiting for more updated information to yield better informed decisions in 2021, avoiding presupposing any Board decisions, and ensuring that none of the recommended actions would lock the Board into subsequent decisions in 2021.

While continued pauses on some actions could impact delivery dates, in most cases, the drivers of revised delivery dates would be the Board's consideration in 2021 of lower revenue projections.

Don Billen, Executive Director of Planning, Environment, and Project Development, began the presentation. He reviewed the path forward and explained the context and basis for the recommendations the staff were making.

Karen Kitsis, Deputy Executive Director of Capital Project Development, reviewed the active projects and projects which were planned to be active in addition to those with paused actions. Of those projects, two actions were recommended for advancement: the Kent and Auburn Parking and Access Improvement project and the Sumner Station Parking and Access Improvement project. Three categories of projects were recommended for deferral into 2021; the remaining parking and access improvement projects, platform extension projects, and the Sounder Maintenance Base. These projects were recommended for deferral due to uncertainty in Sounder Ridership levels moving forward.

Boardmember Millar advocated for focus on the multi-modal access portion of the Sounder Parking and Access Improvements projects which were recommended to advance instead of only the parking access. Boardmember Balducci advised that the Board use the Parking and Access policies, which were updated after the passage of ST3.

Ms. Kitsis continued to the Bus Rapid Transit Mode, reviewing the status of all projects. Actions recommended for advancement in the fall were the I-405 North and South BRT Phase Three preliminary engineering consultant contract and authorization of a general engineering consultant contract, and SR 522 project authorization of a general engineering contract. Projects recommended for deferral were the Bus Base North and NE. 85th Street interchange agreement because of potential phasing options.

Boardmember Balducci advocated for the advancement of all paused projects before she left the meeting.

Ms. Kitsis continued to the Link Transit Mode, reviewing the status of all projects. The two actions which were paused, work on Everett Link and the Operations and Maintenance Facility – North, were both recommended for advancement. The Everett Link work was preliminary and would allow for development of phasing options and better cost estimates. The Operations and Maintenance Facility North allowed for long planning lead time for the facility, which would support multiple alignments and modes.

Boardmember Roberts advocated for the advancement of both projects. He explained that Snohomish County has been working together to prepare for the projects and that it was a great concern to the community.

Ms. Kitsis reviewed additional smaller projects and third party agreements, all of which had been paused. The third party agreements were paused, in addition to Sound Transit's considerations, due to partner uncertainty. Projects recommended to advance were the Everett Parking agreement and the Madison Bus Rapid Transit agreement with the city of Seattle. The Everett project was nearly complete and the agreement would leverage city funding to cost effectively provide 90 parking stalls. The Madison Bus Rapid Transit project agreement was needed to for the City of Seattle to attain federal funds. Projects not recommended for advancement were the North Sammamish Park and Ride, Bus on Shoulder, and a Rapid Ride C and D agreement.

Boardmember Durkan advocated for the Madison BRT agreement advancement, explaining that federal funding was hinging on the advancement.

Boardmember Constantine expressed concern about recommendation for the Rapid Ride C and D project, and explained that the definition had been completed but was awaiting Sound Transit approval. Boardmember Durkan agreed with Boardmember Constantine's concerns.

Mr. Billen explained that even though projects were advanced in the upcoming decisions, they were not exempt from future realignment decisions in 2021. Similarly, a delayed project would not necessarily exhaust future funds, but would provide additional time to gather information.

Chair Keel acknowledged the comments and concerns raised by the committee and assured them that he would take the comments into consideration as he worked to create the motion for the full Board. He advised that all of the capital projects would take place, but the open question revolved around the timing.

Boardmember Dammeier noted that resources should be prioritized to focus on safety, which improve passenger comfort and continued ridership. He also advocated for South Tacoma and Lakewood Station Parking and Access Improvements project to advance.

Executive session

None.

Other business

None.

Next meeting

Thursday, October 1, 2020
10:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.
Location to be determined

Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 11:49 a.m.

ATTEST:

Kent Keel
Executive Committee Chair
APPROVED on _____. AM

Kathryn Flores
Board Administrator