

Regional Transit Authority  
December 3, 1993

Members Present:

Bruce Laing, Chair; King County Councilmember  
Bill Brubaker, Vice-Chair; Snohomish County Councilmember  
Bill Stoner, Vice-Chair; Pierce County Councilmember

King County

Martha Choe, Seattle Councilmember  
Don Davidson, Bellevue Councilmember  
Mary Gates, Federal Way Councilmember  
Audrey Gruger, King County Councilmember  
Greg Nickels, King County Councilmember  
Norm Rice, Mayor, City of Seattle  
Cynthia Sullivan, King County Councilmember

Pierce County

Sharon Boekelman, Bonney Lake Councilmember  
Ken Madsen, Pierce County Councilmember  
Paul Miller, Tacoma Councilmember

Snohomish County

Dave Earling, Edmonds Councilmember

Washington State Department of Transportation

Sid Morrison, Secretary

The meeting was called to order at 12:20 p.m. by Mr. Laing, Regional Transit Authority (RTA) Chair, in the South View Lounge of the Museum of Flight, 9404 E. Marginal Way South, Seattle, Washington.

Mr. Laing apologized for arriving late for today's meeting. He said today's meeting will adjourn at approximately 1:00 p.m., and will be followed by a workshop.

Recognize Official Clerk for this Meeting

It was moved by Mr. Brubaker, seconded by Mr. Rice and carried by the unanimous vote of all RTA members present that Ms. Debi Milham be appointed Official Clerk for today's meeting.

Mr. Brubaker said that on occasion, I enter into a personal services contract with the Museum of Flight. On behalf of the Museum Director, he continued, I would like to thank the RTA for holding its meeting at the Museum today. I encourage RTA members to wander around the exhibits as the schedule today permits, he said.

Report of the Chair

Mr. Laing said I have received a letter from the Congressional delegation asking the RTA to consider meeting with them during the holidays. I have prepared a response, he said, and copies have been distributed today (copy on file). Are there any comments?, he asked.

Mr. Kalberer said staff has no comments. Staff is assuming the RTA wishes to hold such a meeting with the Congressional delegation, he continued, and it is working towards that end.

Approval of Minutes

It was moved by Mr. Stoner, seconded by Mr. Rice and carried by the unanimous vote of all RTA members present that the minutes of October 22, 1993 be approved as presented.

Public Comment

Mr. Richard Haase, Metro Citizens' Transit Advisory Committee (CTAC), made the following statements:

Copies of CTAC's November 30, 1993 memorandum have been distributed today (copy on file), and I hope you will read it.

The second paragraph suggests that the RTA's dialogue with the public must 1) explore what diverse constituencies value; 2) listen and respond to tough questions; and 3) allow, as the time frame permits, for creative change.

The CTAC has worked and observed what has been going on with the RTA and the Joint Regional Policy Committee (JRPC) over the last several years. We found a commitment by many JRPC members to listen and respond to CTAC; I would recommend that the RTA carry on this principle. In developing a public involvement plan, the RTA needs to know what its objectives are. What do you want to achieve from the public involvement plan? Awareness? New ideas? Criticism? I recommend that you listen to the public and be sure to respond. It is very important, if you are going to involve the public, to respond to what they have to say, even if you disapprove of a particular idea. We believe the RTA should seek CTAC's endorsement of a public involvement plan.

Thank you very much.

Mr. Laing asked that the Public Involvement Task Force take Mr. Haase's testimony into consideration.

Mr. Bruce Kendall, Northwest Bicycle Foundation, made the following statements:

I had not planned to speak today, but I was inspired by Mr. Haase's comments and the RTA Board grappling with its objectives for public outreach. The RTA should also be considering what its objectives are as the system is eventually planned and implemented.

There was a draft agenda prepared for the RTA's October 16 workshop. This agenda was eventually changed, and there was one item that was not included on the final agenda. I believe this item should come back before the RTA in the near future: discussion of the key issues underlying the conclusions of the JRPC. The key issue identified with which the RTA should grapple is why a large investment in public transportation is the only way to assure mobility and to alleviate congestion. Why won't other options preclude the need for this large investment? I think this is a good topic for discussion by the RTA.

Mr. Frank Hutchins, Puget Sound Light Rail Transit Society, made the following remarks:

Sometimes we study problems too much and solutions too little. Some of our "solutions" deserve to be "studied to death."

At meetings on transportation, and also on health care, education, and other social issues, someone will always raise the cry, "We have to do something, because it will cost too much to do nothing." The answer to that is, "Yes, it's costly to do nothing, but it's even more costly to do the wrong thing." For one reason or another, it doesn't work; money and time are wasted.

How should we define "the wrong thing"? Whatever is too narrow or too expensive for its benefit or whatever makes the situation worse is "the wrong thing." We have all too often done the wrong thing; because it was money wasted, we couldn't afford it. In this region, many times over, we have suffered from navel gazing, that is, professional jealousy and insularity. As a result, as comic character Mr. Boffo said, "We found out what we were doing wrong, and got better at it."

Then we find ourselves in an emergency and we have to spend even more with even less consideration. In education and health care, as well as for transportation, if we can break the habit of narrow vision followed by hasty, panic-driven expenditures (the wrong thing), we can afford to do the right thing.

What is the right thing? As Mr. Earl Blumenauer, Transportation Commissioner in Portland, Oregon said, what you need is a balanced transportation system that gives people choices and is more sensitive to neighborhood and business opportunities. We

think in our community, light rail fills that bill. It allows us to focus development where it needs to be. It allows higher housing density. It attracts economic opportunity. And it helps ease congestion on our streets and freeways.

No heavy rail system located in a limited access corridor can do these things. Tunnelling solves some right-of-way problems, but defeats major transit objectives of access, congeniality, and security. For these objectives, a freeway is a tunnel on the surface. Costwise, six miles of surface track can be laid for the cost of one mile underground.

#### Report of the Chair

Mr. Laing asked is the list of RTA meeting dates in 1994 available today? Ms. Barbara Dougherty said this information was sent to all RTA members' offices.

Mr. Laing said this meeting schedule is based on the RTA's bylaws; additional workshops may be necessary in order to meet the work program.

Mr. Laing said Mr. Greg Nickels has been appointed Chair of the Finance Committee, replacing Ms. Choe.

Mr. Laing said some RTA members attended a Seattle Post-Intelligencer editorial board meeting. General background was provided, he explained, and those in attendance would be happy to talk about this meeting with other RTA members. No issues other than those contained in the work program arose, he noted.

#### Task Force Reports

##### Staffing Task Force

Mr. Brubaker gave the following report:

With the RTA's concurrence, the Staffing Task Force has signed a contract with the research firm of T. M. Campbell and Associates to look for an Executive Director and Clerk. The advertisement for the Executive Director position took place two weeks ago. Thirty eight calls have been received, and 32 applications have been submitted. There were 130 telephone calls received, and 115 applications mailed out to interested parties. In following up leads from RTA Board members, 17 applications have been received. Advertising of the Clerk position will take place Sunday.

The timetable is such that on December 17 the Staffing Task Force will meet to receive a progress report from the search firm. We will be reviewing a list of 8 to 10 candidates. On December 30 we will meet and reduce this list to four or five candidates. In the first week of January the task force will interview these four or five candidates and recommend the top two or three for interview by the full RTA Board. With that schedule, an Executive Director should be on board by February 1.

Mr. Laing asked does this timetable include interviews of candidates by the full RTA Board? Mr. Brubaker said that is correct; those interviews are scheduled for January 7.

Mr. Laing said the scheduling of the January 7 meeting is in response to a request at the last RTA Board meeting. This would be a meeting in addition to the regular Board meetings on the second and fourth Fridays of the month, he explained. Has the location of the January 7 meeting been announced?, he asked. Ms. Dougherty said no; it has been determined that this meeting will, based on the meeting rotation schedule, be held in the King County area, but staff has not yet identified an exact location. January 7 is a Friday, she noted.

Mr. Brubaker said the Staffing Task Force has been meeting in the Puget Sound Regional Council's (PSRC) offices; I could determine whether or not this space is available for the January 7 meeting.

Mr. Laing asked will it be possible to undertake interviews of candidates in executive session? Mr. Gunter said yes; however, any decision as to the hiring of the Executive Director must be made in public session.

Mr. Laing asked will the Board have to have an official meeting with public notification if it should wish to announce a decision on the hiring of an Executive Director? Mr. Gunter said that is correct.

Mr. Laing asked are the public notice requirements the same for a meeting held in executive session as they are for any other meeting of the Board. Mr. Gunter said that is correct.

Mr. Miller said it is my understanding that it is the intent of the Staffing Task Force to interview Executive Director candidates in the morning, with full Board interviews of limited candidate choices in the afternoon. I believe it would be incumbent upon us to reach and formalize a decision on that date, he stated.

Mr. Rice suggested the process allow some flexibility. This process sometimes takes longer than expected, he noted.

Ms. Gates said the Staffing Task Force's schedule has slipped twice already; the Task Force does understand the need for flexibility.

Mr. Nickels said I have had many talented people indicate an interest in providing services to the RTA either as an employee or consultant. Who is the appropriate party for these people to contact?, he asked. Mr. Brubaker said December 10 is the deadline for submission of applications for the Executive Director and Clerk positions. The search firm has indicated they will take the names of all interested parties and compile a list of those interested in other jobs, he continued, and the task force would then determine how to proceed with those.

Mr. Laing asked what is the timeframe for hiring a Clerk? Mr. Brubaker said I believe the hiring of the Clerk will be a subset of the Executive Director process. At its next meeting, he explained, the task force will be formulating the timeframe for hiring a Clerk.

#### Public Involvement Task Force

Mr. Earling said Board members have received a memorandum today from the Public Involvement Task Force, dated December 3, 1993 (copy on file). He continued with the following presentation:

The Public Involvement Task Force has met twice since its appointment. The staffs from the three counties have met to help formulate the public involvement program being proposed today. The task force's next meeting will be a workshop, with citizen participation, so that together we can shape an effective, responsive program that includes their review. During the break today, I would like to try to establish the date for this workshop. This will occur in the next few weeks.

In the meantime, the task force recommends that certain efforts begin immediately toward the short-term program so that we can begin establishing a two-way communication process with the public before the RTA gets too much further along in its work.

The first page of our memorandum provides our preliminary recommendations. They are subject to modification following our workshop with citizen participation. The task force is seeking the Board's consideration and approval of these recommendations today:

- 1) Establish goals and objectives to guide the public involvement program. These goals (Attachment A) are:
  - . Build awareness and trust of the RTA;
  - . Develop a final transit system plan shaped by public discussion; and
  - . Communicate the RTA's final transit plan/vision.

- 2) Identify activities to begin immediately, recognizing that cost estimates and budget approval may require adjustment to the recommended short-term program.

Attachment B is a timeframe chart, showing the three goals outlined on Attachment A. I would like to call out a couple of things that might be of interest. Many people have expressed an interest in establishing a baseline of where the RTA might be in regard to public knowledge. We want to do this as well as undertaking a bus rider survey. There will be media mailings, including mailing the RTA meeting report to the media. We will talk about how that report is formatted later in today's workshop. We also think it is important to introduce the RTA Board members to the public, and to participate in paid communications, such as the Seattle Times Info Line.

With regard to citizen involvement, the task force would like to have a public involvement workshop in the next few weeks. Also, RTA meeting notices would be mailed to community leaders and meeting reports would be mailed to community leaders and elected officials. This would be a one-page bulletin, similar to the one I have in my hand. The intent is to communicate after each RTA meeting with each elected official in all three counties. I think that is important so the elected officials are comfortable with what the RTA is doing. I am also showing one of four letterhead designs currently under consideration.

With regard to public information, an RTA meeting report would be issued. We are putting together an introduction to the RTA brochure as well as a short, seven-minute videotape that will be made available to civic organizations. We would continue to issue the bimonthly newsletter.

Under the topic of special projects, in addition to the upcoming workshop, the task force would like to begin to have the public provide input into what sort of event could be undertaken in the future, similar to the previous citizen summit.

The task force believes this work can be accomplished within the budget available. We would ask for approval to move forward in these three areas. We need to get the following projects underway: bus rider survey, regional telephone survey, and the citizen event I just mentioned. We will be preparing and will have by January 28 a staffing needs assessment and a budget to presented to our Finance Committee.

- 3) Approve modest use of videotaping for RTA meetings pending further exploration of other options for cost effective use of municipal and public access cable channels (Attachment C).

The task force recommended that there be no videotaping of today's meeting and workshop, and that a home camcorder and a staff operator be utilized to videotape the least-cost planning presentation at the December 10 meeting. The media team will explore and report on a number of options for cost-effective use of municipal and public access cable channels in the three counties. These options include videotaping, duplicating and distributing tapes of RTA meetings cost-effectively for cablecasting, and the possible use of existing municipal and public access cable programming to present summarized information on RTA issues and actions. Another option is regularly producing and providing a low-cost program (probably 30 minutes in length) on RTA issues and actions for cablecasting, with each program airing several times in each county.

The task force would like the RTA to accept and approve these recommendations. I would also like all RTA members present to indicate their preference of the four letterhead designs displayed today by attaching a black "dot" sticker to their choice during the break after today's meeting.

The next step would be to hold a workshop. At that time, the intent would be to invite citizen groups, interested individuals and such organizations as the League of Women Voters and the Municipal League. This will help build our credibility.

We would also like to develop a budget over the next few weeks to go to the Finance Committee. We look forward to developing a long-term program to have in place by January 28.

Mr. Laing said page one of the task force's memorandum indicates the preliminary recommendations are subject to modification following the upcoming workshop and budget work. He asked is the Board being asked to approve these recommendations in concept? Mr. Earling said one thing I want to be clear on is that in January we will need to develop a bus rider survey and a regional telephone survey. We need the authority to move ahead with that work, he said, and we assume there will be an expense involved. If we delay until after the budget is developed at the end of January, he continued, we will be behind the schedule contained in the timeline.

Mr. Laing asked could staff respond to the concern in authorizing expenditures in January for public communication? Are there resources available?, he asked. Mr. Kalberer said I think there are resources available for this work. I will work with the Finance Committee Chair next week to make those resources available to the Board, he said. We hope to establish a treasurer and to work with King County and Metro to place funds in an account for the RTA, he continued. The answer is yes, he stated.



Mr. Laing said staff is talking about funds that have been available for high capacity transit related activities. This is consistent with the JRPC's access to funds, he noted.

Ms. Dougherty said Mr. Laing asked if the task force is seeking the Board's acceptance of its recommendations in concept. The other direction the task force is seeking is approval to move forward with items that are less costly than the surveying and the special public event. These items are the meeting reports, for example, she said. Staff would like to be comfortable that the Board would like staff to move ahead with these actions, she stated.

Mr. Brubaker asked will the December 10 meeting be videotaped with a home camcorder? Mr. Earling said the camcorder can be placed on a tripod.

Mr. Brubaker suggested the use of two camcorders to videotape the meeting. He continued with the following remarks:

In Snohomish County we have a working group that meets prior to each RTA meeting. One of the things we discussed was the fact that there is a separate communications program within Snohomish County. It is important that these programs be consistent with this communications program and with everyone else who undertakes a communications program.

Mr. Earling said one of the things I have been delighted with is the fact that the task force has had representation from all three counties. I am very comfortable with the interagency staff group process working with the task force. He added, I say that having been critical, at times, of the communications process used by the JRPC.

Mr. Miller said I have a question about the depth of the survey. I am concerned that we make sure we project the options to as broad a base of the public as we can, he stated. I am reluctant to rely on representative polls of 500 people, he said. To what extent are we reaching beyond the normal groups that come to our meetings?, he asked. Mr. Earling said I think after you study the graph we handed out today, you will see there are several ways we are trying to establish communication with the public at large. Once we have held the first workshop, he explained, we will shape the program hopefully to meet everyone's needs.

Mr. Miller asked will there be a two-way response so that individuals providing input to the RTA will receive a response? Mr. Earling said I believe that is the case.

It was moved by Ms. Sullivan, seconded by Mr. Miller and carried by the unanimous vote of all RTA members present that the preliminary recommendations made by the Public Involvement Task Force today be approved.

Legislative Task Force

Mr. Madsen made the following statements:

The Legislative Task Force has not formally met, but I have met with each member. We have a meeting scheduled next Thursday. Our Congressional delegation will be in the area over the holiday. I would ask that Mr. Laing sign and send the letter distributed today, and I will send a copy to Ms. Patty Murray.

It has come to my attention that contacts have been made between members of this Board or your staffs and Congressmen. I would like to ask that you tell the Legislative Task Force when such a contact is made so we know who is being contacted and by whom. We need to orchestrate those meetings so that certain subjects are covered in the discussion. The same is true for contacts with state legislators. This is especially true for Mr. Brubaker in Snohomish County and the leadership of the Senate Transportation Committee and in Tacoma with the House Transportation Committee. I am not suggesting RTA members must clear these contacts with me, but I want to know what is discussed in these meetings.

Everyone believes we should have some serious discussions about our strategy over time. Most of us believe a five to six year strategy is needed.

The other thing we need to talk about is that since we have no funds in the bank and I do not know who could write a check, we have a problem because we have issues that will be presented to the 1994 legislature in mid-January. We have issues that are ongoing and important right now in Congress. Since we have no money, how do we get people in place in order to deal with these issues? I think right now we have two issues: 1) the short term situation of dealing with the state legislature and the 1994 session; and 2) the long term strategy for the next four to five years. Unless there is any serious problem, I would like to assume the task force can go ahead, checking with Mr. Laing and the Rules Committee, and make commitments as they relate to the short-term. In the long-term, I think it will have to go through the staffing task force. We do not have time to go through that process for the short-term actions. I would like to make the assumption that for the short term, we can make some commitments and get going. That is all I want to say.

With no funds we will have to be very creative. This is not intended to spite anyone. We have to make a move. Many people out there are lobbying you to be lobbyists for the RTA. I spent five years on the Senate Transportation Committee. I call and ask people their comfort level. If you have served in Olympia or lobbied, you have baggage.

We have to determine the comfort level of the legislators. By next week we will have a resolution. I would like to make some commitments potentially.

Mr. Laing asked if Mr. Madsen is referring to financial commitments? Mr. Madsen said I do not know if we can make financial commitments as the RTA has no funds.

Mr. Laing said the RTA does not have its own public fund so we, as the RTA Board, are not in a position to issue checks. There are resources beyond the joint staffing funds, he said, and there are budgets in each of the transit agencies, the largest being with Metro, for high capacity transit related activities. Those resources were available to the JRPC until its demise, he said, and they are now available to the RTA. The Finance Committee will discuss that situation in depth, he said, and they will bring recommendations about how to use those resources.

Mr. Laing said in the meantime, I believe the resources can be made available to the Legislative Task Force. If that is incorrect, he said, I would like to be informed by staff.

Mr. Kalberer made the following statements:

We need to have some discussion with the Finance Committee. There are resources under the King County Metro control. To engage those funds requires a process that ends up with a contractual relationship with King County Metro. We need to have discussions with the Finance Committee Chair and decide how rapidly he believes it is possible to bring those resources to the control of the RTA. If they can be transferred in January, we would try to make short-term arrangements with people representing the RTA with the understanding that financial resources would become available in early January. This would be a contractual relationship between this body and those resources. To the extent we utilize legislative staff from any existing transit authorities or counties, we may use other arrangements that would not require contractual arrangements between the RTA and a consultant. This would be a loaned staff situation.

I do not know what we think the time frame is. If it is a longer time frame, we need to find a different way to proceed. We need to be in a position where the RTA will have authority to enter into contracts. We need to do that because the Board would like to hire an Executive Director in the near future.

Ms. Sullivan asked are we talking about actually hiring a lobbyist? Mr. Madsen said I cannot answer that question. I am assuming the RTA cannot hire anyone because it has no funds, he noted.

Ms. Sullivan asked did the Legislative Task Force discuss the fact that the Executive Director should be involved in the selection of a lobbyist. Mr. Madsen said this was discussed, but there

is a short-term situation. The Executive Director would not be selected until January 8, he said, which is half-way through the legislative session. I do not have a preconceived answer, he continued, but we need to have an answer next Thursday for the 1994 session. I think the Executive Director should have direct input into who is chosen as the long-term oracle to the legislature for the RTA, he stated.

Ms. Sullivan said the RTA will be hiring an Executive Director before the first of February; that individual should be made aware of this situation.

Mr. Rice said I share Ms. Sullivan's concern. Once you form a relationship, he said, you begin to build. That person will have to take that philosophy, he said, and the first step is crucial. We may be unable to look at this in a short-term/long-term manner, he added.

Mr. Madsen said one alternative is to use people who are currently officially county or city lobbyists and ask them to work for the RTA. Then you have 15 different people contacting legislators and saying they represent the RTA, he continued. We need to have one person representing the RTA, he stressed. Mr. Rice is right, he continued, but I think we have to do something for the 1994 session in a professional way. Someone needs to directly represent the RTA, he concluded.

Mr. Brubaker said I do not believe we can shorten the Executive Director selection process, which presents a dilemma.

Mr. Nickels made the following comments:

I had the opportunity to talk with Mr. Madsen prior to today's meeting. It seems it will be the elected leadership that will be driving this situation. We have to determine what our agenda is in Olympia this session, and what our agenda is going to be before Congress. We do need to bring some resources to bear in terms of getting that started and making transition to the Executive Director. The Executive Director should be comfortable to make modifications to make this situation work effectively as possible. I am supportive of letting Mr. Madsen move ahead and that the vice chair and chair agree with the process he explained.

Mr. Gates said if you have an RTA legislative representative and an Executive Director who do not have a workable relationship, it would be possible to do a phase-in/phase-out type of thing. One of the jobs of the first legislative representative could be to take the next legislative representative around and introduce him/her, she said. There is a high turn-over of representation in Olympia, she said, and the lobbyist may be dealing with many different people next year anyway. I am supportive of the Legislative Task Force moving ahead, she stated.

Ms. Choe made the following statements:

We would attempt to do as much as we can to make sure whatever names are contemplated for the legislative position are put forth to the Executive Director candidates. There is a timing problem, and the situation in the legislature will dictate what we can hope to accomplish. We will be discussing non-financial issues. We want to lay the framework for a longer term strategy. We should stress that the legislative person is accountable to the Executive Director. There is also a responsibility to take direction from the Board. Many of the issues we know we want changed have been identified. We should put a narrow focus on what we hope to accomplish. I think we are sensitive to the timing issues. This is December 3 and the legislative session starts in a month. In order to begin to prepare for representation of the issues we have identified, there is a sense of urgency.

Mr. Rice said I appreciate this urgency. I just want to say that having a spokesperson, whether this is a lobbyist or the Executive Director, carries certain responsibilities, he said. There is an ongoing vision and direction for the RTA, he stated, and it is not so simple to divide that with legislators even with a narrow agenda. I am concerned you may be giving the legislative representative more responsibility than you think, he continued, and that person needs to have a clear understanding of where we are going.

Ms. Sullivan said each of the RTA board members has friends and ties in Olympia. It is critically important that the Board have confidence in the direction of the legislative representative so Board members can keep their hands off, she stated.

Mr. Madsen said what we are talking about is the person who goes down to Olympia and punches. It may not be the governmental relations director, he said, but we have to have someone down there in the halls. Ms. Sullivan said I do not disagree. RTA Board members spend a lot of time in Olympia, she said, but it is important that everyone be on board.

Mr. Brubaker made the following remarks:

I agree that it is important to proceed as this is an urgent situation. Perhaps the risks Mr. Rice has pronounced may be acceptable, given the urgency involved. Until we fill this position, we are the lobbyists and spokespeople for the RTA. In the sense that RTA Board members will be dealing with Congress and the legislature, I think the Legislative Task Force should come up with some talking points so we will all be consistent. I think legislators are opposed to facing 15 representatives from one identity because they hear 15 different stories. There will be a National Association of Regional Councils meeting soon, and we will all have opportunities to meet with lawmakers. If we are consistent, we will go a long way toward bridging some gaps.

Mr. Laing asked is some action needed prior to December 10? Mr. Madsen said no; the task force would like to make some recommendations for the long-term. My concern is what do we do tomorrow, he said. If you agree, he continued, I think we should go ahead with the 1994 session. I think we should lay out a series of recommendations that the whole Council deals with for the long term, beginning in March, he concluded.

Mr. Laing asked if, to address the 1994 session, you need a decision before the December 10 meeting? Maybe we should authorize the Task Force Chair, with the concurrence of the Board Chair and Vice Chair, to proceed with obtaining representation in Olympia. Mr. Madsen said that is what I need.

Mr. Laing asked where should this oversight authority lie? Mr. Brubaker suggested the Rules Committee have this authority.

Mr. Miller said I assume the task force will be meeting Thursday and Friday trying to decide who will represent the RTA in Olympia. Could you bring this recommendation back to the Board December 10?, he asked. Mr. Madsen said this is possible, if this is the will of the Board. Everyone here has a friend who is a lobbyist, he said, and we have to decide how to do this with no money.

Mr. Laing said included on the December 10 should be a personnel meeting. The board could utilize an executive session to discuss this issue, he said, and if we are able to come to a meeting of the minds, an announcement could be made in open session.

Mr. Madsen said this is possible, if this is the will of the group. I would like to make sure that when we finish that debate, he continued, there is a decision and not a decision to delay the decision.

Mr. Davidson asked could the Board empower the Legislative Task force to make this decision if no agreement is reached on December 10? Mr. Madsen said I would just like to be sure we have a clear cut time when the decision will be made.

Mr. Laing said my intention is to make a decision on December 10 after a personnel meeting is held in executive session. Is this proposed sequence acceptable from a legal standpoint?, he asked. Mr. Gunter said yes.

Ms. Gruger asked are you going to bring in the resumes of three individuals, firms or groups for consideration by the Board? Mr. Madsen said that is not what I was proposing. I have no preconceived person or tactic, he said. With no funds, he continued, I wonder where we can find someone to represent the RTA for the 1994 session.

Ms. Gruger said I have a problem with this. I know there are funds available, she said, and you get what you pay for.

Mr. Madsen said the task force would bring the names of three individuals for consideration in connection with the long-term solution. The person to deal with the 1994 legislative session may not be with us after March, he noted.

Mrs. Gruger said the Human Resources Commission recently issued an RFP for a legislative representative. I knew everyone who applied, she stated; the candidates were whittled to three and a vote was then taken. Mr. Madsen said I believe this is a good process to be used to address the long-term situation.

Mr. Laing said I will stipulate that in response to the request, the Board will prepare itself to make a decision on December 10 after having a personnel meeting to consider recommendations.

Mr. Laing said at some time the Legislative Task Force should consider what type of program we need to address the legislative bodies of the three counties. We cannot wait too long for an organized approach to keep them on board, he noted. I am torn between whether this should be handled by the Legislative or Public Involvement Task Force, he said, but I believe it is primarily the responsibility of the Legislative Task Force.

Mr. Madsen said one of the things that came out is the real need for a coherent strategy. We could move forward without such a strategy and then regret it, he said. We should have a strategy we all agree on, he said, and this will be discussed on Thursday.

#### Finance Committee

Mr. Nickels said I will be sitting down with staff on Monday and asking these fundamental questions. Where is the money?, he said, and how do we cash a check? I am doing this so that by the time of the next Board meeting I can give you an update and bring the Finance Committee together to address that immediate work program, he explained.

#### Rules Committee

Mr. Laing gave the following report:

The Rules Committee has addressed two issues. The first has to do with a mission statement which has been circulated. We have had some feedback and hope that on December 10 we will have a perfected mission statement to recommend for adoption.

The second has to do with meeting space. I have asked the Rules Committee to further address this issue. The recommendation to the body is that for meetings in King County, the RTA utilize the Metro Council Chambers until such time as the King County Council Chambers, which are being remodeled, are completed. At that time, the RTA would begin utilizing the King County Council Chambers. There would be no cost and there will be television access facilities. For your consideration at the next meeting I will distribute a floor plan of the Council Chambers. It is unique layout as there are two tiers designed to seat 13 members in the outside arc and five members in the inside arc. Whether or not this seating arrangement meets our requirements may be determined after the first meeting in the Council Chambers.

#### Other Business

Mr. Miller said the RTA meetings tend to draw a big crowd; perhaps staff should do a better job of considering that fact so that there are not members of the public who have to stand through the meeting. Mr. Laing asked that someone count the number of people in the audience today.

Mr. Morrison made the following statements:

I have a concern. At the next meeting I would like to bring a proposal. When Congress passed the ISTEA legislation in 1991, they included an authorization for \$25 million for commuter trail between Seattle and Tacoma. We have, in the two fiscal years since that time, appropriated \$20.2 million. Anytime we get near the Appropriations Committee we are chastised because only \$1.8 million has been obligated thus far. I would like to bring a proposal to you that will likely cause conflict. It would require that the RTA step forward faster than we are comfortable with for the commuter rail project. If we are going to lose these funds, this may be a risk we should consider. I am proposing that we proceed with the obligation of the remaining \$189 million to aggressively improve the facilities necessary on the Seattle to Tacoma trackage to allow timely completion and offering of commuter rail service if approved by the voters.

Mr. Laing said I appreciate the timing of Mr. Morrison's proposal as the tentative agenda for December 10 includes an update on commuter rail.

Mr. Earling reminded Board members to indicate their preference of the proposed letterheads for the RTA during the break after this meeting.

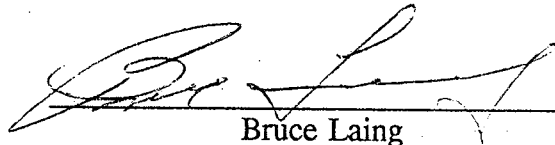


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Mr. Laing said that in addition to the commuter rail update scheduled for the December 10 meeting, the agenda will include discussion of legislative representation, and a presentation on least cost planning by Dick Watson of the Northwest Power Planning Council.

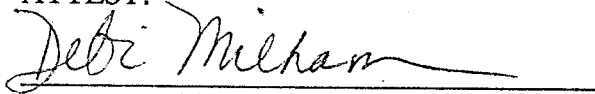
Adjourn

As there was no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 1:40 p.m.



Bruce Laing  
Chair, RTA Board

ATTEST:



Debi Milham  
Interim Clerk, RTA Board