

**Regional Transit Authority
Finance Committee Meeting Notes**

May 4, 1995

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Chair Nickels at 12:17 p.m.

Attendance

Greg Nickels
Doug Sutherland

WSDOT

Lois Anderson

Report of the Chair

Chair Nickels indicated that, since there was no quorum present, the Committee will not be able to take action on any agenda items. The Finance Committee will attempt to obtain a quorum for an additional meeting in two weeks time.

Report of the Finance Director

Ms. Hendrickson indicated that the State audit is almost complete. The results should be available at the next regular Finance Committee meeting.

Budget Development -- Discussion

A. Schedule for Adoption

Ms. Hendrickson distributed a "FY 1996 Budget Proposal" (on file). She had hoped the Committee could take action on this with the understanding that, due to pending funding and Board decisions, it may be revised. It will be important to provide adequate notice to employees impacted by staff reductions. She asked Ms. Anderson to give an update on current news from Olympia.

Ms. Anderson indicated that the legislative budget proposals were still in the conference committee, and that the RTA will probably be the last item on the agenda. The members have not come to an agreement on whether or not to fund the RTA. She cautioned that any decisions could be revised in the adoption or general fund processes. Nothing should be taken as final until it is signed by the governor.

B. Review of Budget Detail

After the Committee reviewed the Budget Proposal, Mr. Nickels reasoned that the Committee should wait for a quorum before further discussing the budget. The Committee should be able to make a recommendation to the Board in late May or early June. However, budget discussions will remain theoretical until the State funding levels are known.

Referring to the cash flow projection (p. 3), Mr. Sutherland indicated that the RTA could fund itself without State contributions.

Ms. Hendrickson agreed that dollars could be stretched through December, 1995.

Mr. Sutherland asked if there had been any response to the Summit Conference proposed by the three County Executives.

Ms. Anderson indicated that WSDOT would be willing to help sponsor that effort, but that a more objective party might be better. A memo detailing the Summit Conference proposal was presented to the Conference Committee the day before, as it will be important to obtain legislative participation. However, the Summit will not be a large factor in deciding whether or not to fund the RTA.

Mr. Sutherland indicated that a Summit Conference would allow the RTA to revisit its enabling legislation. There needs to be some agreement as to the direction the RTA should be taking, and if changes to the legislation are necessary.

C. RTA Participation in Disparity Study

Mr. Stephens reported that Resolution 63, which covers the agreement to join in the disparity study, will be going to the Board for action. He and Ms. Hendrickson had changed the disparity study six month budget from \$75,000 to \$37,500, the remainder of which will be spread out over the following year. There is a provision in the agreement which allows a member to withdrawal if necessary. The other jurisdictions realize the RTA may need to exercise that option.

Grant Strategies: Next Steps – Discussion

Mr. Beal reviewed the "RTA Grant Strategies: Outstanding Issues" packet with Committee members (on file).

Alternative Employment Solutions – Discussion

Mr. Matsuoka explained that a number of steps have already been taken to reduce staffing levels (see pg. 12 of the FY 1996 Budget Proposal). Remaining RTA staff are committed to seeing the project through to a successful vote. Time off without pay, working 80% time, and job share situations have all been discussed in an effort to lessen the employee impact of staff reductions. Management has been encouraging these discussions, but wants to make sure the Board is comfortable with this.

Mr. Sutherland indicated that any amount of resource allocation within the budget constraints, once identified, would be worth pursuing.

Mr. Nickels agreed, but cautioned that any solutions must adhere to the Fair Labor Standards Act.

Mr. Matoff indicated that staff will appreciate any support from the Board. These ideas can be further pursued and finalized once the budget constraints are identified.

1996 Local Contributions – Discussion

Mr. Nickels indicated that this topic was already covered in the FY 1996 Budget Proposal.

Other Business

Mr. Nickels asked Ms. Walker to schedule an additional Finance Committee meeting with a quorum in two weeks.

Next Meeting

The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Finance Committee will be June 1, 1995, from 12:00 to 1:00.

As there was no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 1:30 p.m.

Recorded by Amy Ebersole
Board Administrator's Assistant