

**Central Puget Sound
Regional Transit Authority**

**November 13, 1997
Board Meeting Summary Minutes**

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 2:15 p.m. by Board Chair Bob Drewel in the Edmonds Public Library Plaza Room, 650 Main Street, Edmonds, Washington.

Roll Call

Chair

(P) Bob Drewel, Snohomish County Executive

Vice Chairs

(P) Paul Miller, City of Tacoma Councilmember

(P) Greg Nickels, King County Councilmember

(A) Sarah Casada, Pierce County Councilmember

(P) Ann Davis, City of Lakewood Councilmember

(A) Dave Earling, City of Edmonds Council President

(P) Mary Gates, City of Federal Way Councilmember

(P) Jane Hague, King County Council Chair

(A) Ed Hansen, City of Everett Mayor

(A) Richard McIver, City of Seattle Councilmember

(A) Rob McKenna, King County Councilmember

(A) Sid Morrison, WSDOT Secretary

(A) Norm Rice, City of Seattle Mayor

(P) Dave Russell, City of Kirkland Councilmember

(P) Ron Sims, King County Executive

(P) Cynthia Sullivan, King County Councilmember

(P) Doug Sutherland, Pierce County Executive

(A) Jim White, City of Kent Mayor

The Board Administrator announced that a quorum of the board was present at roll call.

The following board member arrived after roll call:

Jane Hague, King County Council Chair

Mr. Drewel announced that the business meeting would be followed by a budget retreat.

Public Comment

The following individual presented comments to the board:

Mr. Paul W. Locke

Comments are on file with the Board Administrator.

Report of the Chair

None.

Executive Director Report

(Ms. Hague arrived at this time.)

Executive Director White explained that Federal Transit Administration (FTA) utilizes a Project Management Oversight Program for all major high-capacity transit projects receiving federal funds. An element of that oversight program is the FTA requirement that the RTA issue a Project Management Plan (PMP), which was distributed for the board's review (copy on file).

Mr. White stated his intent to bring the PMP to the Executive Committee's next meeting and then request that the board endorse it at its December 11 meeting.

Transit Oriented Development Task Force

Motion No. 45 - Setting forth principles related to the land use and transit work activities of the RTA and establishing a mission statement to guide the work program of the Transit Oriented Development (TOD) Task Force

It was moved by Ms. Sullivan, seconded by Mr. Sutherland and carried by the unanimous vote of all board members present that Motion No. 45 be adopted as presented.

Public and Government Affairs Committee

Mr. Earling mentioned that handouts had been distributed related to the light rail scoping report. In addition, he referred board members to a flyer outlining a series of light rail scoping meetings to be held in December in various communities (copy on file).

Motion No. 46 - Adopting the 1998 Federal Legislative Program

Motion No. 47 - Adopting the 1998 State Legislative Program

Mr. Earling indicated the Public and Government Affairs Committee reviewed the federal and state legislative programs twice, and that the Finance Committee reviewed the programs once. Motion Nos. 46 and 47 will be before the board for action at its December 11 meeting (copies on file).

Mr. Earling introduced Ms. Sheila Dezarn, Government Relations Manager, and Mr. Ron Main, RTA Lobbyist.

Mr. Main discussed the difficulty in gathering support and agreement for a gas tax proposal in the next session. He reported that the House and Senate leadership, Senator McDonald and Speaker Ballard, had announced the week prior that the gas tax would not be up for consideration

in the coming session. He stated that the Governor will be submitting a transportation funding proposal as part of a supplemental budget in December.

Mr. Main noted that there does appear to be some agreement by the Governor and the majority leadership that the ports need to financially participate in a solution regarding freight mobility.

He indicated that Senator West, Chair of the Ways and Means Committee, and speaker Ballard are working to address the issue of motor vehicle excise tax (MVET) distribution to transit districts. The approach that seems to stand out would cap the growth of MVET available to transit districts. Mr. Main stated he would monitor the issue.

Finance Committee

Mr. Nickels reported that the Finance Committee has been primarily involved in development of the 1998 budget and financial plan, which would be the subject of the retreat after the business meeting.

He indicated that the Finance Committee also received a briefing on the state and federal legislative programs, as well as a briefing on the 1996 audit by the State Auditor. The Auditor's Report contained no findings. A final report should be available by the end of the year.

Mr. Nickels reported that the RTA is negotiating the award of a bond counsel services contract. Staff is currently working out the details, and will come back to the Finance and Executive Committees with a recommendation.

Mr. Nickels continued his report by stating that the agency's financial status through September remains favorable. Revenues are tracking very closely to the budget, and the RTA is 50% under the expenditures included in the budget. Progress continues to be made against that expenditure rate as more staff is hired.

Mr. Nickels then distributed a handout outlining a proposed initiative regarding economic development (copy on file). He explained that the initiative was the result of the September summit on the RTA economic development program. He indicated that the draft would be discussed at the Executive Committee meeting on November 21, and the Finance Committee would consider it at its December 4 meeting. He stated that the proposal may be before the board for action on December 11, and asked board members to review it and to submit comments.

Commuter Rail Fare Equipment

Mr. Paul Price, Commuter Rail Director, explained that staff was seeking policy input on fare vending and validation equipment. He introduced the newest member of the Commuter Rail Department, Manager of Product Development, Ms. Betty Laurs. He noted that Ms. Laurs has 15 years experience in the market development industry, and was formerly the marketing manager in San Diego.

Ms. Laurs presented slides and a discussion paper regarding commuter rail fare equipment (copies on file). She indicated that the work of purchasing fare vending equipment for the stations needs to begin in order to meet the schedule of Sounder operations by late 1999.

Ms. Laurs indicated that staff was recommending the use of fare vending machines and validators, which is the most cost-effective method of fare collection. She stated that the software is flexible enough to allow time to work out the regional fare policies. The decision on the software would need to be made by the first part of 1999.

Mr. Sims expressed concern that the equipment specifications may inhibit or set parameters on the fare integration issues that remain to be resolved.

Mr. Price responded that staff would bring the issue back to the board if the equipment decisions begin to constrain fare integration policy options.

Next Meeting

The next RTA Board meeting will be held on Thursday, December 11, 1997 from 3:00 to 5:00 p.m. at the Puget Sound Air Pollution Control offices in Seattle.


Adjourn

As there was no further business, the meeting was adjourned and the retreat was convened at 3:00 p.m.



Bob Drewel
Board Chair

ATTEST:



Marcia Walker
Board Administrator