

Regional Transit Authority
Motion No. 34

A motion relating to maximizing the economic benefit that local businesses and workers can derive from the construction and operation of the regional transit system.

Background:

On November 5, 1996, voters in King, Pierce and Snohomish counties approved \$3.2 billion in local funding to construct a regional transit system. Construction and operation of the regional transit system can create significant economic opportunities for local businesses and workers, and it is in the public interest to have a proactive plan to maximize that economic benefit.

Motion:

It is hereby moved by the Board of the Regional Transit Authority as follows:

Section 1. The Executive Director shall include, in the second six-month budget for 1997, \$25,000 for consultant services to staff and conduct a local economic development summit (conceptually described in Attachment A) involving local economic development, labor, community, educational, and other appropriate stakeholders, to explore ways in which the RTA may encourage maximizing the economic benefits to local businesses and workers. The summit agenda should be geared towards gathering information on existing economic development activities in the region, and the appropriate roles and responsibilities of various economic development interests and the RTA.

Section 2. Following the summit, the Executive Director shall develop a strategy for the RTA's participation in efforts for local businesses and workers to position themselves competitively for RTA-related work.

Section 3. The RTA Board will oversee the development of the "local benefit plan and policies" to which staff will report on their progress.

Approved by the Board of the Regional Transit Authority for the Pierce, King and Snohomish Counties region at its meeting held on July 24th, 1997.



Bob Drewel
Board Chair

ATTEST:



Marcia Walker
Board Administrator

DRAFT
May 29, 1997

**Proposal for an
RTA Local Economic Development Initiative**

Purpose: To communicate with local economic development leaders about the RTA's employment and contracting policies and guidelines, and to identify and promote innovative ways to maximize the local economic benefits of the RTA's construction and operation program.

The RTA has developed detailed policies and guidelines to ensure that its employment and contracting practices during the implementation of Sound Move bring the maximum benefit to businesses in the region. The opportunities represented by these policies have not yet been widely communicated to the economic development and business communities.

Additionally, other opportunities may exist that have not yet been identified to leverage the RTA's \$3.9 billion, 10-year investment for maximum benefit to local communities throughout the region. For example, specific strategies could be developed to enhance local employment benefits and to partner with government and community-based organizations in training and welfare-to-work programs. Local economic development leaders throughout the region would be best positioned to help develop such strategies based on efforts that are already underway or that best meet local needs.

The RTA thus proposes to convene a half-day RTA Economic Development Summit meeting and to invite economic development leaders in the region to:

- Discuss current economic development initiatives underway in the region and in local communities that could be supplemented by the RTA's participation;
- Develop innovative ways to allow the RTA to tie in to local economic development efforts;
- Discuss the RTA's proposed employment and contracting policies and guidelines; and
- Develop additional ideas to augment the RTA's policies to maximize local economic benefits.

The discussion of RTA economic development tie-in initiatives could be organized around three broad strategies:

1. Business strategies
2. Employment strategies
3. Training/Welfare-to-Work strategies

Potential agenda for Summit Meeting:

Opening remarks and welcome by RTA Board

Session I: Presentations by local economic development players on their current programs and how the RTA could supplement or tie into ongoing efforts

Session II: Presentation by RTA of its policies and guidelines and how it plans to implement and monitor them

Session III: Discussion by participants of additional ideas to augment RTA policies and guidelines and of potential local tie-in agreements, for example:

- Partnership agreements with EDCs, Chambers, community and technical colleges, and local governments for "first choice" hiring of targeted groups
- Use of RTA leverage on major contracts to secure hiring opportunities (similar to City of Seattle Employment Linkage Project)
- Negotiated agreements with contractors and suppliers on employment and contracting diversity, local benefit goals
- RTA matching funds to help staff a recruiter/broker for local, small, and other targeted businesses as contractors and suppliers
- RTA matching funds to help staff an employment broker/counselor at local EDC or workforce organization
- RTA matching funds to help staff an employment broker jointly provided by a consortium of contractors and suppliers to the RTA
- Stipends for workforce training/skill upgrading for targeted worker groups at local community or technical colleges

Meeting Wrap-Up

Potential invitees (very preliminary):

King County

Greg Nickels, King County Council and RTA Board

Mike Alvine, King County Council Staff

Ron Sims, King County Executive and RTA Board

Ray Moser, King County Director of Economic Development

Dick McIver, Seattle City Council and RTA Board

Jan Drago, Seattle City Council

Mary Jean Ryan, Director, Seattle Office of Economic Development

Bob Watt, Greater Seattle Chamber of Commerce President

Economic Development of Seattle-King County

Bill Stewart, King County Workforce Brokerage

Ron Judd, King County Labor Council Executive Secretary
Rich Feldman, Worker Center Executive Director
Paige Miller, Port Commissioner
Susan Crane, Port Jobs Executive Director
Sarah Skoglund, Director, Bellevue Chamber of Commerce
Bob Roberts, President, Renton Technical College
Al Starr, Private Industry Council

South King County

Bob Green or representative, Federal Way Chamber of Commerce
Linda Cowan, Auburn School Superintendent
Bob Pressey, SeaTac Occupational Skills Center
Highline Community College
Green River Community College

Pierce County

Doug Sutherland, Pierce County Executive
Daisy Stallworth, Director Pierce County Economic Development
Erling Mork, Pierce County Economic Development Board
Brian Ebersole, Mayor of Tacoma
L.H. Bates Vocational-Technical School
Don Meyer, Interim Executive Director, Port of Tacoma
John Thompson, Secretary Treasurer, Pierce County Central Labor Council
David Graybill, President CEO, Tacoma Pierce County Chamber of Commerce

Snohomish County

Bob Drewel, County Executive and RTA Board
John Thoreson, Snohomish County Economic Development Council
Ed Hansen, Mayor of Everett
Ray Stephenson, Director, City of Everett Economic Development
Dick Bennett, Director, Everett Chamber of Commerce
Kathy DiJulio, Director, Snohomish County PIC
Pam Koss, South County Chamber of Commerce
Pat McClain, Everett Community College

State

Tim Douglas, Washington State Department of Trade and Economic Development