

Sound Transit

Board Meeting Summary Minutes February 12, 1998

Call to Order

Board Chair Bob Drewel called the meeting to order at 3:05 p.m. The meeting was held in the Olympic Room of the Tacoma Public Library, 1102 Tacoma Avenue South, Tacoma, 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

Board Members

(A) Sarah Casada, Pierce County Councilmember	(A) Sid Morrison, WSDOT Secretary
(P) Ann Davis, City of Lakewood Councilmember	(P) Dave Russell, City of Kirkland Councilmember
(P) Dave Earling, City of Edmonds Councilmember	(P) Paul Schell, City of Seattle Mayor
(A) Mary Gates, City of Federal Way Councilmember	(P) Ron Sims, King County Executive
(P) Jane Hague, King County Councilmember	(P) Cynthia Sullivan, King County Councilmember
(P) Ed Hansen, City of Everett Mayor	(P) Doug Sutherland, Pierce County Executive
(P) Richard McIver, City of Seattle Councilmember	(A) Jim White, City of Kent Mayor
(P) Rob McKenna, King County Councilmember	

Marcia Walker, Board Administrator, indicated a quorum of the board was present.

The following board members arrived after roll call:

Ed Hansen, City of Everett Mayor

Ron Sims, King County Executive

Cynthia Sullivan, King County Councilmember

Public Comment

The following individuals presented comments to the board:

Mr. Tom Brotherton, Kent City Councilmember

Mr. Doug Howell, attorney for the Environmental and Engineering Study Institute of Washington

Ms. Sandy Amott, Kent City Councilmember

Comments are on file with the Board Administrator.

(Board member Sullivan arrived at this time.)

Report of the Chair

Mr. Drewel indicated that the board would work from a revised agenda, and that the first topic following the consent agenda would be the fleet procurement strategy.

Executive Director Report

Executive Director White indicated that the Citizen Oversight Panel (COP) is beginning the process of evaluating the RTA's performance in 1997 with completion expected in April.

Consent Agenda

The Board of the Central Puget Sound Regional Transit Authority does hereby approve the voucher certification for the period December 1 through 31, 1997 totaling \$2,469,867.24.

It was moved by Mr. Nickels, seconded by Mr. Russell and carried by the unanimous vote of all board members present that the consent agenda be approved as presented.

Regional Express Fleet Procurement Strategy

Motion No. 98-3 - Strategy for Procurement of Regional Express Fleet

Mr. Drewel explained that discussion on this motion was being continued from the prior board meeting. He indicated that the current action is the strategy for the fleet procurement; the actual contracts would come before the board in the future.

It was moved by Mr. Morrison and seconded by Mr. Earling that Motion #1 of Motion No. 98-3 be approved as presented.

Ms. Agnes Govern gave a presentation on the fleet procurement strategy (copies of the background materials are on file). She indicated that staff was presenting three options before the board:

1. Exercise options held by other transit agencies and look at an independent procurement process for Pierce County.
2. Utilize an independent Sound Transit bus procurement process, either for alternative fuel or diesel vehicles.
3. Initiate discussions with transit agencies on cost sharing agreements or gradually moving to alternative fuel vehicles.

(Board member Hansen arrived at this time.)

Ms. Govern outlined the pros and cons of each option. Alternative one would allow Sound Transit to begin providing express bus service at the end of 1999. In addition, these are proven bus types that the transit agencies are familiar with and consistent with and strategic direction. However, Sound Transit would be receiving buses from two different manufacturers and may not get every desired change order. For example, buses with low floors are currently not an option and it may not be possible to negotiate that change.

Option two would allow Sound Transit to develop customized specifications. However, this option would not meet the late 1999 implementation date for provision of express bus service.

Option three would allow discussion on the use of alternative fuels with the transit boards in King County and Snohomish County, but would not allow Sound Transit to meet the 1999 implementation date for express bus

service.

It was moved by Mr. Morrison and seconded by Mr. Miller that Motion No. 1 of Motion No. 98-3 be amended by adding "Staff will meet, but not exceed, fleet procurement time lines necessary to achieve service commitments" and that a version of Motion No. 2 be added to Motion No. 1 as a final bullet, striking the word "would" and inserting the word "may."

It was requested by Mr. McKenna that the question before the Board be divided.

Mr. Drewel announced that the main motion is Motion No. 1. The first amendment states "staff will meet but not exceed service commitments." The second amendment adds an additional bullet: a version of Motion No. 2, striking the word "would" and inserting the word "may."

It was moved by Mr. Morrison that the word "significant" be stricken from Motion No. 2.

The motion to amend Motion No. 2, with the removal of the word "significant" was carried by the majority vote of all Board members present. (Those voting in the minority were Mr. Nickels, Mr. Hansen and Mr. Sims.)

The motion to amend Motion No. 1 carried unanimously.

The main motion to approve Motion No. 98-3 as amended was carried unanimously.

Ms. Veronica Parker, Regional Bus Program Manager, gave a presentation on low floor versus high floor coaches.

Committee Reports and Action Items

Finance Committee

Resolution No. 98-2 - Authorizing a contract with the firm of Parametrix, Inc. to provide environmental review work for LINK Light Rail Transit System

It was moved by Mr. Nickels and seconded by Mr. Miller that Resolution No. 98-2 be approved as presented.

Mr. Nickels explained that the award of this contract anticipates a two-year program to cover three main tests: alternative screening and definition; preparation of the DEIS; and preparation of the FEIS. The Finance Committee reviewed the resolution, and absent a quorum, those present were in unanimous agreement that Resolution No. 98-2 be adopted.

The motion to approve Resolution No. 98-2 was carried by the unanimous vote of all board members present.

Siting and Implementing Commuter Rail Vehicle Maintenance and Layover Facilities

Mr. Price, Sounder Commuter Rail Director, introduced Mr. David Beal, Project Development Program Manager, who gave a presentation on siting and implementing commuter rail vehicle maintenance and layover facilities.

Longer-term RTA Headquarters

Mr. Nickels reported that the Finance Committee has begun studying longer-term headquarters for the RTA. The

original lease for the current office space was for 24 months. This originally included the fourth and fifth floors, and we recently included the second and third floors. The lease stipulates that notice will be given by June 23, 1998 in order to terminate that lease early or a six year extension will be triggered.

The committee has looked at a number of geographical locations for the long-term headquarters. These range from the current location to the Tacoma CBD to Lynnwood. The committee has narrowed further review to three sites: the Seattle CBD, the Bellevue CBD and Tukwila.

Public and Government Affairs Committee

Mr. Earling announced that the 1999 appropriations request of \$125 million in Washington, D.C. has been made. The committee continues to monitor state legislative activity.

Executive Committee

Mr. Miller, who chaired the meeting in Mr. Drewel's absence, reported that no action was taken by the committee because a quorum was lacking. Action items held over until the next meeting include authorization of board travel, nomination of Sound Transit officers, authorization of the executive director to execute bond counsel contracts and to extend the contract for government relations representatives.

Staff Briefing on the Environmental Review for the Tacoma-to-Seattle Commuter Rail Project

Ms. Val Batey, Project Development Manager, provided the briefing. She announced that an environmental assessment has been issued, and the comment period closed on January 30, 1998. Responses and revisions to comments, as appropriate, are underway with the final document being available at the end of February.


The project includes nine commuter rail stations, service level of 18 trains per day in the evening and morning peaks, proposed track and signal improvements. Impacts identified are primarily associated with bus and auto traffic around the new stations, and with acquisition of property and relocation issues around the stations. To date no significant adverse impacts have been identified.

A mitigation plan with specific commitments for this project is being prepared. That plan will be negotiated with the local jurisdictions and other permitting authorities and brought to the board for review and approval.


At the March 12 meeting the board will be asked to identify preferred station site alternatives for the purposes of environmental review. The only two station locations with alternative sites are the Tukwila station and the Kent station.

Other Business

As there was no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 5:50 p.m.


Bob Drewel
Board Chair

ATTEST:


Marcia Walker
Board Administrator