

## **Sound Transit**

### **Summary Board Meeting Minutes February 26, 1998**

#### **Call to Order**

Board Chair Bob Drewel called the meeting to order at 2:10 p.m. The meeting was held in the conference room of the Puget Sound Regional Council, 1011 Western Avenue, Sixth Floor, Seattle, 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) Ann Davis, City of Lakewood Councilmember

(P) Dave Earling, City of Edmonds Councilmember

(P) Mary Gates, City of Federal Way Councilmember

(A) Jane Hague, King County Councilmember

(A) Ed Hansen, City of Everett Mayor

(P) Richard McIver, City of Seattle Councilmember

(P) Rob McKenna, King County Councilmember

(P) Renee Montgelas for DOT Secretary Morrison

(P) Dave Russell, City of Kirkland Councilmember

(P) Paul Schell, City of Seattle Mayor

(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

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

The following board members arrived after roll call:

Richard McIver, City of Seattle Councilmember

Paul Schell, City of Seattle Mayor

Ron Sims, King County Executive

#### **Public Comment**

The following individuals presented comments to the board.

Mr. Anoop Batra, representing regional M/W/DBE firms

Mr. Ben Cedeno, Amalgamated Transit Union, Local 587

Mr. Paul W. Locke, Seattle

Ms. Connie Epperly, Kent City Councilmember

Ms. Sandy Amodt, Kent City Councilmember:

Mr. Don Shaffer, Seattle

(Board member McIver arrived at this time.)

## **Report of the Chair**

Mr. Drewel announced that board meetings have been extended by one hour, to begin at 2 p.m. This will allow more time for discussions on policy issues.

He asked for an indication of interest from board members to attend the American Public Transit Association (APTA) rapid transit conference in San Diego from June 7 through 11.

## **Executive Director Report**

None.

## **Consent Agenda Items**

### **Minutes of December 11, 1997 Board Meeting**

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

## **Policy Issues for Discussion and Deliberation**

### **Approaches to providing for the operation of Sound Transit's Regional Express buses, Sounder commuter rail trains and Link light rail trains**

Mr. Paul Price, Sounder Commuter Rail Director, opened the presentation with general comments. He indicated that staff is seeking board discussion and policy input between now and the end of the summer, when a decision will be sought.

Mr. Price, Ms. Agnes Govern, Regional Express Director, and Mr. Paul Bay, Link Light Rail Director, each presented comments specific to the operation of each of the three modes (commuter rail, regional express bus and light rail).

### **Development of Sound Transit's fare policy**

Ms. Barbara Gilliland, Systems Integration Program Manager, provided a status report on the development of fare policies. Over the past nine months, the five transit agencies within the Sound Transit district have been working together to explore potential fare policy alternatives. In September, a set of fare policy objectives was established to guide further discussions: 1) to encourage transit ridership; 2) to simplify transfers; 3) to encourage pre-paid fares; and 4) to maintain transit financial health of the transit agencies.

(Boardmember Sims arrived at this time.)

Options for fare structures include: 1) flat fares; 2) quality of service fares; 3) time of day fares; 4) stage fares; 5) zone fares and/or 6) distance-based fares.

### **Evaluation criteria and methodology for use in developing a detailed project description for the Link Light Rail Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS)**

Ms. Valerie Rosenkrantz, Light Rail Project Development Manager, described goals of the methodology to use to develop a detailed project description for the Link DEIS. They are: 1) the process is clear, transparent, and understandable; 2) analysis supports future work for DEIS and preliminary engineering; and 3) the outcome is

two to four alternatives per segment that are "most promising" to carry forward.

A two-tier evaluation method is proposed which is designed to first screen out any alternatives that could not feasibly meet the project's objectives and secondly, to assess the pros and cons of the remaining alternatives in six categories: 1) community compatibility; 2) cost; 3) environmental; 4) political and community acceptance; 5) ridership; and 6) service levels.

Level One criteria measures against systemwide performance standards established in Sound Move. They are the critical criteria. Level two criteria are designed to illustrate the differences between the remaining alternatives, thus facilitating the choice among alternatives within each segment.

## **Committee Reports and Actions**

### **Executive Committee**

#### **Report of February 20, 1998 meeting**

Mr. Miller chaired the meeting in Mr. Drewel's absence and reported that the committee had approved board member travel and nominated the Sound Transit officers for the 1998-2000 terms. The Committee recommended that the current officers be maintained: Mr. Drewel, Chair; Mr. Nickels, Vice Chair; and Mr. Miller, Vice Chair. The board will vote on these nominations at its March 12 meeting, according to the operating rules.

The committee approved Motion No. 48 - authorizing the Executive Director to execute a contract for bond counsel and disclosure counsel services, Motion No. 98-10 to extend the contract for federal government relations representative (Denny Miller and Associates) and Motion 98-12 to accept the commuter rail vehicle specifications and authorizes advertisement of vehicles based on this specification. The committee also received a report on the agency's 1997 hiring activities. The report shows that Sound Transit is "at parity" in all affirmative action/EEO categories as of the end of 1997.

The Executive Committee will continue its discussion of Resolution No. 98-5 - Memorandum of Understanding for planning, coordination and cooperation between the RTA, Puget Sound Regional Council and Community Transit, Everett Transit, King County Department of Transportation, Kitsap Transit & Pierce Transit and will bring it to the board for action at the March 12 meeting.

The committee also reviewed the first quarterly update of the Policy Timetable. A copy of the letter from Executive Director White outlining upcoming major decisions of the Board, a description of the timetable, the timetable itself and a list of the changes that have been made was distributed.

### **Finance Committee**

#### **Resolution No. 98-4 - Approving Budget Policies for the RTA**

**It was moved by Mr. Nickels, seconded by Ms. Gates and carried by the unanimous vote of all board members present that Resolution No. 98-4 be approved.**

### **Public and Government Affairs Committee**

#### **Report of February 20, 1998 meeting**

Mr. Earling reported that the committee is currently following two bills in the state legislature. The short-term

borrowing bill has gained broad support. Details of the sale/lease back bill are being worked out with the Treasurer's Office.

#### Vehicle Identity and Design

It was moved by Mr. Earling and seconded by Mr. Russell that Motion No. 98-30, providing policy direction regarding the design of Sound Transit vehicle, be approved, including Options 1A and 2A, with the understanding that alternatives in advertising and in vehicle identity continue to exist (copy on file).

The motion to approve Motion No. 98-30 was carried by the unanimous vote of all Board members present.

#### Transit Oriented Development Task Force

Ms. Sullivan announced that the task force continues to work its way to a conclusion and will bring recommendations to the board in March. The task force wants to ensure surrounding development is kept at the forefront of decision-making to not preclude any options. The task force will also bring a recommendation about the integration of TOD into ongoing operations to the board.

#### Next Meeting

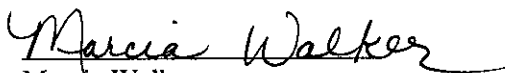
Thursday, March 12, 1998 at Edmonds Public Library from 2 to 5:00 p.m.

As there was no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 4:30 p.m.



Bob Drewel  
Board Chair

ATTEST:



Marcia Walker  
Board Administrator