

**Regional Transit Authority
Executive Committee Meeting Highlights**

July 17, 1998

Call to Order

1:40 p.m. by Board Chair Bob Drewel.

Attendance

(P) Bob Drewel, Chair	(P) Greg Nickels
(P) Paul Miller, Vice Chair	(P) Paul Schell
(P) Dave Earling	(A) Ron Sims
(P) Mary Gates	(P) Cynthia Sullivan
(A) Jane Hague	(A) Doug Sutherland
(P) Richard McIver	

Report of the Chair

Mr. Drewel stated that approval is needed for Board member Miller to attend the American Public Transit Association (APTA) Annual Conference.

It was moved by Ms. Gates seconded by Ms. Sullivan and carried by the unanimous vote of all committee members present that approval be given for Mr. Miller to travel to the APTA Annual Conference.

Mr. Drewel stated that he would be asking two Executive Committee members to report on issues that are not listed on the agenda. He also stated that the meeting would adjourn prior to 3:00 p.m., in order for some of the members to participate in a conference call with Washington D.C.

He called on Mr. Earling to report on Board and staff members' recent trip to Washington, D.C., as well as the Public and Government Affairs (PG&A) Committee meeting held earlier in the day.

Mr. Earling reported that the trip to Washington D.C. had provided for several good meetings with Sound Transit's entire delegation from both the House and Senate. The team was also able to meet with staff of the delegation and answer questions about the short and long-term impacts of the Sound Move plan. They met with the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) and resolved a number of issues. He explained that the group had gone to Washington, D.C. to raise, as high as possible, the House of Representatives' figure included in the transportation bill that they would be bringing forward. He stated that the Senate had included \$60 million in their 1999 program and the figure from the House needs to be as high as possible. This is because ultimately both houses send their recommendations to a Conference Committee and, from that, the final recommendation is formed.

According to Mr. Earling, an ongoing issue is the absence of a ST representative on the House Transportation Subcommittee and this is where most of the numbers are developed. He went on to say that our delegation was actively engaged in trying to get the figures as high as possible.

Mr. Earling informed the Executive Committee of an earmark of \$16 million for bus and \$20.5 million for rail. The next step will be to take this to the Conference Committee. He also said that staff would be

asking several Board members to make phone calls or send letters when the Conference Committee is in session.

Mr. Drewel called on Mr. Miller to report on the Committee Structure Task Force.

Mr. Miller reported that the Committee Structure Task Force will present a report at the July 23, 1998 Board meeting. Two issues were discussed in that committee which affect the Executive Committee:

1) Language is being proposed to address the issue of ad hoc advisory working groups that are sometimes formed, such as on the commuter rail issue. The proposal is to add language to the responsibilities of the Executive Committee with a quarterly review on the progress of ad hoc working groups that are serving in an advisory capacity to staff.

2) Mr. McKenna raised the issue of oversight of operational aspects of the agency. He wanted to have an additional committee formed to oversee this. The Committee Structure Task Force felt an additional committee would be burdensome to the Board in trying to achieve attendance, and that many of the issues being raised by Mr. McKenna were already being dealt with by the Executive Committee. The language that staff has come back with for consideration would be an additional responsibility for the Executive Committee to consider operations issues affecting the entire authority that are not within the responsibility of another standing committee.

Mr. Miller called for comments and as Executive Committee members raised no concerns, stated that the language would be included as part of his report to the Board. He stated that over time, there may be a need to refine and develop what specifically is being included under the term "operations."

Executive Director Report

Mr. Bob White, ST Executive Director, briefed the Executive Committee on the issues regarding vehicle specifications for the bus transit fleet that were discussed at an earlier Board meeting. He reported that staff will be bringing the contract with Gillig Corporation for 25 articulated buses to the Board in August.

He stated that as part of that contract staff must also consider which options they wish to keep open for the approximately 50 additional articulated buses. While the Board did direct staff to negotiate the contract for the first 25 buses with low floors, at least one Board member has made the suggestion to re-visit the issue of specifications for the second half of the order.

Mr. Drewel stated that, as there was no opposition at this time, the issue will be revisited.

Public Comment

Mr. Paul W. Locke commented on fares collected by riders transferring from one transit agency to another (copy of comments on file in the Board Administration office).

Ms. Jan Redding, Kent, Citizens to Save the South Site, commented on the Commuter Rail station location for Kent and distributed copies of a formal appeal packet (copy on file). Ms. Redding's comments are on file in the Board Administration office.

Mr. Walter Hazen, King County resident, also gave comments on the Kent station site (copies of his comments are on file in the Board Administration office).

Committee member Miller stated that, while he was not necessarily in a mood to revisit the issue, there were some claims made in the appeal packet with regard to assessed evaluations, job loss, etc., that would be appropriate for staff to review and respond back to the Board in order to give a sense of validity to those claims.

Resolution No. R98-40 - Authorizing the Executive Director to enter into a Memorandum of Agreement with the City of Everett for intergovernmental cooperation regarding the funding, design, and construction of the Pacific Avenue Overpass

Contact: Agnes Govern, Regional Express Director at 684-1673

It was moved by Ms. Gates, seconded by Mr. Miller and carried by the unanimous vote of all committee members present that Resolution No. R98-40 be forwarded to the full Board with a do-pass recommendation.

Resolution No. R98-37 - Authorizing the Executive Director to execute an Intergovernmental Agreement between Sound Transit and the City of Edmonds for planning, coordination and cooperation in the development and implementation of a commuter rail station in the City of Edmonds

Contact: Paul Price, Commuter Rail Director at 689-4769

It was moved by Mr. Earling, seconded by Mr. Miller and carried by the unanimous vote of all committee members present that Resolution No. R98-37 be forwarded to the full Board with a do-pass recommendation.

Station Design Issues in Common for Sounder, Link and Regional Express Bus

Contacts: Betty Laurs, Commuter Rail Project Development Program Manager at 689-7440, Debora Ashland, Architect Stations and Design, LRT at 689-3309, Linda Smith, Community Connections Project Manager at 689-4922

Ms. Laurs stated that the presentation was to generate discussion and obtain input from the Committee on facilities design issues that are common to all three lines of business for Sound Transit's services. A slide presentation of stations from around the country was shown to the committee.

Committee members discussed the following issues: station comfort, signage with arrival times, international signage, security and real estate around stations. The entire record of the presentation and discussion by committee members are on file in the Board Administration office.

Options for Sound Transit's Roles in Economic Development

Contact: Alec Stephens, Diversity Program Manager at 689-3762

Mr. Drewel stated that he had met with Mr. Stephens and he emphasized the importance of ST's role in economic development. He stated that since the committee did not have adequate time to give to the discussion on Options for Sound Transit's Roles in Economic Development, it would be the first item on the August 7, 1998 Executive Committee meeting agenda.

Mr. Paul Matsuoka, Deputy Executive Director, gave the background for ST's roles in economic development (copy on file). He stated that the discussion paper included in today's packet (copy on file) is intended to try to narrow what "economic development" means, what role the Board sees for Sound Transit in economic development, and what specific program areas need more work.

Mr. Stephens reported on the economic development summit that was held in September of 1997 and outlined what has taken place before and since the summit. He stated that Sound Transit staff needs Board direction on how Sound Transit ought to be involved in economic development and how funds to operate or contribute to program strategies will be used.

Ms. Kathy Elias, consultant for ST, discussed the options and what was heard from Board members regarding economic development. She called for discussion from the Committee in order to have clear direction in developing pilot projects and other projects when it is time for staff to take action.

She stated that there are two broad policy questions on which staff would like Board direction:

- 1.) How does the Board define Sound Transit's interest in economic development?
- 2.) Does the Board have a preference or sense of priority on which area of activity they would like the agency to focus? Staff has identified four general areas: job creation, training, direct contracting and business technical assistance.

Copy of complete discussion by committee members is on file in the Board Administration office.

Lenora Street Commuter Rail Station Site Alternative

This agenda item was postponed until the August 7, 1998 Executive Committee meeting.

Next Meeting

Friday, August 7, 1998 - 1:30 to 3:00 p.m., Sound Transit Conference Room 1100 Second Ave., 4th Floor, Seattle, Washington.

Adjourn

As there was no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 2:58 p.m.

Recorded by Bernie Wagar
Board Administrative Assistant

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