

**Sound Transit  
Board Meeting Summary Minutes  
September 9, 1999**

**Call to Order**

Board Chair Paul Miller called the meeting to order at 2:08 p.m. in the Olympic Room of the Tacoma Public Library, 1102 Tacoma Avenue, Tacoma, Washington.

**Roll Call**

Chair

(P) Paul Miller, City of Tacoma Councilmember

Vice Chairs

(P) Dave Earling, City of Edmonds Councilmember

(P) Greg Nickels, King County Councilmember

Board Members

(P) Ann Davis, City of Lakewood Councilmember

(P) Bob Drewel, Snohomish County Executive

(P) David Enslow, City of Sumner Councilmember

(P) Mary Gates, City of Federal Way Councilmember

(A) Jane Hague, King County Councilmember

(P) Ed Hansen, City of Everett Mayor

(P) Richard McIver, City of Seattle Councilmember

(P) Rob McKenna, King County Councilmember

(P) Renee Montgelas, representing Sid Morrison,  
WSDOT Secretary

(P) Dave Russell, City of Kirkland Councilmember

(A) Paul Schell, City of Seattle Mayor

(A) Ron Sims, King County Executive

(A) Cynthia Sullivan, King County Councilmember

(P) Doug Sutherland, Pierce County Executive

(P) Jim White, City of Kent Mayor

Marcia Walker, Board Administrator, indicated a quorum of the Board was present at roll call.

The following Board member arrived after roll call:

Rob McKenna, King County Councilmember

**Public Comment**

The following individuals presented comments to the Board (comments are on file with the Board Administrator):

Mr. Carl Mack

Mr. Dick Burkhart

Ms. Angela Ford

Mr. David Petrie

**Report of the Chair**

Mr. Miller advised the Board members that they had been given a copy of a letter from Senators Gorton and Murray (copy on file). He stated the key messages in the letter were:

- ◆ Their continued commitment to supporting Sound Transit funding needs and their appreciation that the Board has stayed on schedule.
- ◆ They encouraged the Sound Transit Board to continue to work with all the communities affected by the upcoming Link route decision and endeavor to address community issues and concerns.
- ◆ They reminded the Sound Transit Board that it is a challenge to obtain significant federal funding for large projects and that their job is made easier when the region is united.
- ◆ They urged Sound Transit to stay focused and on schedule so as not to lose our place in the funding pipeline.

Mr. Miller acknowledged the work Senators Gorton and Murray are doing to represent Sound Transit's interests and

to secure funding.

### **Executive Director Report**

Mr. White responded to an issue brought up during public comment by Mr. Mack, Chair of the Labor and Industries Seattle Branch of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), concerning Sound Transit's unfair and inconsistent treatment of African Americans.

Mr. White stated that the Board made it clear that Sound Transit would be expected to not only produce a quality public transportation system, but would be expected to do so in a manner consistent with the guiding principals for employment and contracting. He remarked that this had been done and that he would be pleased to provide the Board, the NAACP, or anyone else with information on how this has been implemented in Sound Transit's employment policies.

### **Presentation of the Citizen Oversight Panel (COP) Mid-Year 1999 Performance Report**

Ms. Diane Carlson, COP Vice Chair, went over the mid-year performance report (copy on file). She stated that this was the fifth semi-annual report given by the COP since it was established. Ms. Carlson explained that the format was slightly different by identifying and focusing on two key themes: (1) keeping the regional vision and (2) rededicating Sound Transit leadership to the goals of staying on mission, on budget, and on schedule.

Ms. Carlson stated that the report conveyed a sense of the accomplishments by the agency and the successes during 1999, as well as a sense of caution regarding issues that may pose a threat to accomplishing the mission. She went on to highlight the accomplishments and the concerns.

Following Ms. Carlson's report, Board members expressed their gratitude to the COP for their continued guidance and evaluation of Sound Transit.

Mr. Miller spoke for the Board and commented on the dedication and time commitment that the COP has put into the evaluation. He asked Ms. Carlson to thank all of the COP members for the insightful and focused report.

### **Introduction**

Mr. Miller took a few moments to introduce Mr. Harold Moss, former Mayor of Tacoma and current Tacoma City Councilmember, who was in the audience.

### **Presentation and Briefing on Launching of Nine New ST Express Bus Routes**

Ms. Veronica Parker announced that it was time to celebrate. She stated that service on nine new ST Express Bus routes would begin on September 19. Ms. Parker expressed her gratitude to the Board and to the five transit agencies who worked feverishly over the past 24 months to get this done. She said it had been an overwhelming, fast-paced, and challenging project. She went on to mention that the partnerships include the five transit agencies, King County Metro Transit, Everett Transit, Community Transit, Pierce Transit, and Sound Transit, as well as a sixth partner—the community.

(Board member McKenna arrived at this time.)

A tape was shown announcing the launch of nine new ST Express routes on Sunday, September 19, 1999.

Ms. Parker advised the Board that the launch would be celebrated with events at five locations and was being co-sponsored by King-5 TV and the Mariners. The first 100 riders at each site would be given free rides to the Mariners game as well as give-aways. Board members would be speaking on behalf of Sound Transit at the five locations.

Mr. Nickels expressed his excitement about the launch of the ST Express service. He mentioned the importance of the partnerships created with the local transit agencies.

Ms. Gates thanked the Regional Express staff for making sure the vision and the promise covered the whole geographic region.

Mr. McKenna noted that the service was a significant milestone for the Eastside. He mentioned that regular, reliable, convenient service is in big demand and that he was certain the Regional Express service would be very popular.

Mr. Miller complimented staff on delivering the promises made by the Board. He stated that this was exciting because it was the roll out of full services by Sound Transit. He said some people had felt that the expectation of four transit agencies working together to bring about this service was an impossible dream. Mr. Miller complimented the transit agencies for working together as a team.

### **Report and Discussion: Public Comments to the Board on Maintenance Base; and Station Locations in the University District and on Capitol Hill**

Ms. Mary Jo Porter, Link Light Rail, gave a report on the public comments received on the following three environmental assessments:

1. Location of the station at NE 45th and 15th in the University District.
2. Different options for the Capitol Hill station.
3. New options for locating a maintenance base in the north Duwamish area.

#### University District

Ms. Porter explained that the DEIS looked at a deep mined station with a mezzanine, however, the geography of this area required looking at new options. One option would be to have the station entirely under the east side of 15th at 45th under the UW property. Another option would be to have the station entirely under the west side at 45th under private property which would include the UW bookstore.

Ms. Porter stated that the meeting was strongly attended by residents of the Malloy Building, an eight-story apartment building in the middle of the block, which would have to be evacuated during construction.

There was testimony from representatives of the business community who sent a letter asking Sound Transit to look at a location in the business community. They felt having a light rail entrance there would be a benefit to the vitality of the business community. The UW continues to be concerned about construction staging impacts on the law school and use of the UW property for a rail station versus using it for UW-related uses. They also have concerns about the station safety and security.

#### Capitol Hill Station

Ms. Porter stated that for the Capitol Hill Station, the geographical information came back showing that the soils would not allow mining the station at a depth accessible with escalators and stairs. The options are to have the station deep under Broadway, shallow under Broadway, or shallow cut and cover construction under Nagle. The messages at the Capitol Hill meeting were ranged from concern over the cost, to saving money on the Capitol Hill station and spending it in the Rainier Valley, to stating that cost is irrelevant to getting it done right.

Mr. Nickels stated that he felt encouraged by this meeting. He mentioned that in May a large and angry group attended the public meeting. The people attending this meeting seemed to be saying it is time to make a decision and move ahead.

#### Maintenance Base

Ms. Porter stated that in order to meet federal requirements regarding the Minimal Operable Segments (MOS), the first segment must include a maintenance base. Since the first operable segment must include the downtown tunnel, staff looked at the North Duwamish area. Ms. Porter stated that four sites have been identified and evaluated in the Environmental Assessment.

Ms. Porter mentioned that representatives of the Seattle Industry for Responsible Transit stated that they favor the

Rainier Brewery site. The actual brewery footprint would not be big enough by itself. There are two options to the south to add property. The first option would require taking out the old brewery and moving Airport Way over to the brewery site and acquire another piece of land. The second option would stay to the west of Airport Way, but would require acquiring additional land to the south which is the location of Roadway Express. Ms. Porter said there were several people at the meeting testifying that they do not want Roadway Express to be relocated.

Mr. McKenna suggested focusing on the west, acquiring only the property necessary for the phase being built, and being open with property owners that more property may be needed in the future. If Heiser or Roadway had to be relocated, they could be moved across the street.

Mr. Nickels commented that he had walked around the area and viewed the alternatives. He expressed appreciation for the work that had gone into developing a series of alternatives and making a very careful decision balancing Sound Transit's needs with the needs of the local community.

Mr. Enslow asked which site would work best for Sound Transit.

Mr. Paul Bay, Link Director, answered that the site which is longer and stays entirely to the west of Airport Way would be preferred. The other site could be made to work, but it does not work as well.

Mr. Miller stated that he was intrigued by Mr. McKenna's suggestion to look at the initial analysis of site M1D, but still acquire property across the street for the possible relocation of businesses.

**Other Business**

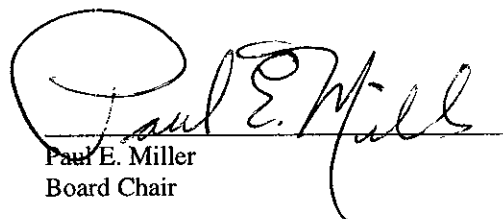
None.

**Next Meeting**


Thursday, September 23, 1999  
1:00 to 4:30 p.m.  
Puget Sound Regional Council  
1011 Western Avenue, 6th Floor  
Seattle, Washington

**Adjourn**

The meeting was adjourned at 4:01 p.m.

  
Paul E. Miller  
Board Chair

ATTEST:

  
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Marcia Walker  
Board Administrator