

**Sound Transit
Executive Committee Minutes**

February 18, 2000

Call to Order

Chair Dave Earling called the meeting to order at 1:45 p.m. The meeting was held in the Boardroom of Union Station, 401 S. Jackson St., Seattle, WA 98104.

Attendance

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

Public Comment

None.

Report of the Chair

Mr. Earling asked Mr. Paul Bay, Director of Link Light Rail, to give a brief status report on the analysis of the alternative alignment through Tukwila.

Mr. Bay indicated that the Board had approved a motion directing staff to explore an alternative light rail route option through Tukwila and to report back to the Board on a regular basis. An open house has been scheduled for March 22 in Tukwila to discuss the alternative and what has been learned about it.

Mr. James Irish, Senior Environmental Analyst, briefed the Committee on the schedule:

- ◆ Update Executive Committee - March 3 and March 17
- ◆ Public Open House on Tukwila Option - March 22
- ◆ Evaluation Report to Executive Committee - April 7
- ◆ Board Recommendation on Tukwila Option - April 13

Mr. Irish went on to say that if the Board chooses to recommend the Tukwila option, a draft supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) would be issued in June, followed by a 45-day comment period which would include public hearings. The final supplemental EIS would be issued in October, with final Board action scheduled for November. The Federal Transit Administration would revise the Record of Decision during November and December.

Mr. Bay indicated that the analysis would be focused on four major areas: environmental evaluation; engineering detail, including value engineering and cost; affordability and financial capability; and information about reactions from the public, the City of Tukwila, and the community.

Tukwila Mayor Steve Mullett indicated that he appreciated Sound Transit's effort to move this forward.

Mr. Earling asked that as many Board members as possible attend the March 22 open house.

Continuing with the Report of the Chair, Mr. Earling indicated that Resolution No. 98-7, adopted April 9, 1998, establishes Sound Transit's travel and reimbursement policies. Under that Resolution, travel by Board members "...on behalf of the Authority beyond a radius of 300 miles from the Authority or which requires overnight lodging shall be approved by the Board's Executive Committee. Travel by Board members outside the United States and Canada also shall be approved by the Executive Committee."

Mr. Earling requested approval for him and Mr. Drewel to travel to Berlin to attend the International Study Mission from April 28 to May 6, as representatives of Sound Transit.

It was moved by Mr. Nickels, seconded by Ms. Gates, and carried by the unanimous vote of all members present that travel for Mr. Earling and Mr. Drewel to Berlin from April 28 to May 6 as representatives of Sound Transit be approved.

Finally, Mr. Earling reported that in Olympia, Sound Transit's insurance program had been moved out of the House. The Senate has also taken action on that issue, as well as the lease/leaseback program. He indicated the need to speak with legislators regarding the importance of the sales tax credit bill.

Executive Director Report

Executive Director White reported that the Puget Sound Regional Council's Transportation Policy Board took action the week prior to recommend that previously-awarded federal grants be transferred to transportation projects that are able to obligate the funds immediately. The action is scheduled to be ratified by the PSRC Executive Committee the following week. Mr. White stated that the action makes the possibility of beginning Sounder Commuter Rail service in September 2000 brighter than before. He stated that Sound Transit will continue working with its partners and that he believed there would be adequate funds to deliver the service.

Minutes of January 21, 2000 Executive Committee Meeting

It was moved by Mr. Nickels, seconded by Mr. Drewel, and carried by the unanimous vote of all members present that the minutes of January 21, 2000 be approved as presented.

Motion No. M2000-10 - Approving the distribution of \$1,342,000 of Research and Technology Funds

Mr. Earling noted that agenda item 8, the Feasibility Study for the Trans-Lake Washington Ferry Project, was included in the list of projects in proposed Motion No. M2000-10. He asked that this discussion item be taken before deliberations on the research and technology program.

Feasibility Study for Trans-Lake Washington Ferry Project

Ms. Barbara Gilliland, Systems Integration Program Manager, presented a discussion paper (copy on file). She reviewed the draft scope of work for the feasibility study, and asked the Committee if there were any issues beyond what staff had identified. Finally, she indicated that she had been working with Ms. Hague and her staff to set up an advisory committee made up of representatives from the Cities of Seattle and Kirkland, the University District and Kirkland neighborhoods, Kirkland businesses and the University of Washington. That group will hold its first meeting on February 23.

Ms. Gilliland indicated that staff planned to utilize on-call services available through the Regional Express department to perform the work, which should be completed the end of May. Staff would then return to the Executive Committee and ask for further direction.

(Mr. Schell arrived.)

Ms. Hague urged the Committee's support of the feasibility study.

Ms. Gates stated that she was pleased that an advisory committee would be involved. She pointed out that there was no mention of the advisory committee in the discussion paper.

Motion No. M2000-10 - Approving the distribution of \$1,342,000 of Research and Technology Funds - Continued

Mr. Earling stated that the Finance Committee had amended and approved Motion No. M2000-10 at its meeting the day prior (copy on file). He indicated that the way the motion was structured, the Executive Committee could either concur or not concur. If the Committee chose to concur, he indicated that the motion would not need to go before the full Board.

Mr. Nickels reviewed the three amendments approved by the Finance Committee:

- ◆ Inclusion of \$50,000 for a study to evaluate the value of an ETC downtown circulator loop in the context of the Sound Transit Link light rail.
- ◆ Changes in the project description of the Elliot Bay Water Taxi. Rather than providing funds to construct a permanent dock facility, the project would provide for operating funds to assess year-round operations of the Water Taxi. Federal funds have been received which would be used to construct the dock.
- ◆ Inclusion of \$50,000 for a Lake Washington Water Taxi Feasibility Study.

Mr. McIver indicated that he'd been asked by the Seattle City Council not to support the ETC amendment. He stated that the City of Seattle would not support any additional public funds being provided to the ETC. He pointed out that the \$50,000 was a conditional grant, and that the City of Seattle would not provide matching funds.

Mr. Schell added that with the Seattle Transit Initiative, the ETC amendment would be redundant and fiscally unwise. He pointed out that the underlying premise of the ETC was that there would be a significant match from private dollars, which has not occurred.

It was moved by Mr. Nickels and seconded by Ms. Sullivan that the Executive Committee concur with the amended Finance Committee motion to approve the distribution of \$1,342,000 in research and technology funds.

Mr. Nickels urged members to consider that the ETC was a citizen-approved initiative. The Joint Regional Policy Committee (JRPC) reviewed elevated transportation and concluded that it did not provide as much capacity as light rail, but that it did provide significant carrying capacity. He stated that, in his opinion, the ETC deserves a chance to continue, and that it is unrealistic to think that a group of citizens would be able to attract significant investment with \$200,000.

It was moved by Mr. McIver and seconded by Mr. Schell that the motion be amended to eliminate the \$50,000 funding of the ETC study.

Mr. Earling asked for a roll call vote on the amendment as proposed by Mr. McIver:

Mr. Nickels	no
Mr. Drewel	yes
Mr. Enslow	yes
Ms. Gates	yes
Ms. Hague	no
Mr. McIver	yes
Mr. Schell	yes
Mr. Sims	absent
Ms. Sullivan	no
Mr. Earling	yes

The motion to amend the Finance Committee Motion No. M2000-10 to eliminate the \$50,000 for the ETC study was approved by a vote of 6 to 3.

The motion to recommend Board approval of Motion No. M2000-10, as amended, was carried by the unanimous vote of all members present.

Resolution No. R2000-02 - Establishing policies and strategies related to investments and operation of the regional high occupancy vehicle (HOV) network

Mr. Earling stated that Ms. Hague had requested that this item be deferred to the Executive Committee's next meeting.

2000 ST Express Service Implementation Plan

Ms. Gloria Overgaard, Regional Express Implementation Program Manager, presented a discussion paper to the Committee (copy on file). She indicated that staff was seeking approval of early implementation of weekend and evening service on Route 574, the SeaTac Express, operated by Pierce Transit. She indicated that, if approved, the additional service would start in May 2000 instead of its planned phase in date of September 2000. The route has been operating since September 1999 and is part of the phased-in service approved in the Service Implementation Plan.

Mr. Nickels asked if funds were available for this early implementation.

Ms. Overgaard responded that funds were available.

Mr. Nick Roach, Systems Integration Project Manager, indicated that Pierce Transit and Sound Transit staff feel that the early implementation of this service would provide good marketing potential for the summer travel season to increase ridership.

Mr. Enslow asked for a briefing on the issue.

It was moved by Mr. Schell, seconded by Ms. Gates and carried by the unanimous vote of all members present that early implementation of weekend and evening service on Route 574, the SeaTac Express, be approved.

Mr. Earling asked for a report on the affordability of moving some of Sound Transit's bus service scheduled for September forward. Additionally, he indicated he was interested in knowing how Sound Transit can better handle and market the "reverse commute." He stated that he'd like to know what Sound Transit is doing to

better utilize the service being provided and to communicate that information to the public.

Ms. Overgaard indicated that staff would return to the next meeting of the Executive Committee with information on opportunities for early implementation of service and a marketing plan.

Other Business

As there was no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 2:33 p.m.

Next Meeting

Recorded by Amy Ebersole
Board Coordinator

ATTEST:

Marcia Walker
Marcia Walker
Board Administrator

Dave Earling
Dave Earling
Board Chair