

**Sound Transit
Board Meeting Summary Minutes
March 9, 2000**

Call to Order

Board Chair Dave Earling called the meeting to order at 2:38 p.m. in the Union Station Board Room, 401 S. Jackson, Seattle, Washington.

Roll Call

Chair

(P) Dave Earling, City of Edmonds Councilmember

Vice Chairs

(P) Greg Nickels, King County Councilmember

(P) Doug Sutherland, Pierce County Executive

Board members

(P) Jack Crawford, City of Kenmore Deputy Mayor

(P) Rob McKenna, King County Councilmember

(P) Ann Davis, City of Lakewood Councilmember

(P) Sid Morrison, WSDOT Secretary

(P) Bob Drewel, Snohomish County Executive

(P) Kevin Phelps, City of Tacoma Councilmember

(P) David Enslow, City of Sumner Councilmember

(P) Paul Schell, City of Seattle Mayor

(P) Mary Gates, City of Federal Way Councilmember

(P) Ron Sims, King County Executive

(A) Jane Hague, King County Councilmember

(A) Cynthia Sullivan, King County Councilmember

(A) Ed Hansen, City of Everett Mayor

(P) Jim White, City of Kent Mayor

(P) Richard McIver, City of Seattle Councilmember

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

The following Board members arrived after roll call:

Mary Gates, City of Federal Way Councilmember

Ron Sims, King County Executive

Public Comment

The following individual presented comments to the Board:

Mr. Paul W. Locke

Comments are on file with the Board Administrator.

(Board member Gates arrived at this time.)

Report of the Chair

Mr. Earling stated that the Board would convene an executive session to discuss negotiations with Burlington Northern Santa Fe (BNSF) at the end of the agenda. He indicated that no action would be

taken as a result of this executive session.

Mr. Earling reported that ST's legislation is still alive in Olympia. He thanked those Board members who have made phone calls and testified in Olympia. He also extended his thanks to the business community and to the City of Tukwila for assistance this session.

Executive Director Report

Executive Director White referred Board members to ST's third annual status report to the public regarding the activities of ST and the implementation of Sound Move (copy on file). Mr. White indicated that the piece was designed and produced for distribution via area newspapers, consistent with the commitment made in Sound Move to keep citizens informed.

Action Items

Finance Committee Recommendations

Motion No. M2000-18 - Authorizing the Executive Director to execute a change order to contract RTA/LR 26-97 with Puget Sound Transit Consultants, for design management and oversight services for the final design of all civil facilities associated with the Link Light Rail Project, for \$26,054,869 and a 10% contingency of \$2,605,487 for a total of \$28,660,356. The total contract amount is revised to \$56,249,413.

It was moved by Mr. Nickels and seconded by Mr. Davis that Motion No. M2000-18 be approved as presented.

Mr. Nickels indicated that Motion No. M2000-18 was considered by the Finance Committee twice. Staff recommended a 15% contingency; the committee preferred a 10% contingency. If staff feels we will go above the 10% contingency, they will come back to the Finance Committee for approval to do so. The Committee was comfortable with this arrangement, and recommended approval of Motion No. M2000-18.

The motion to approve Motion No. M2000-18 was carried by the unanimous vote of all Board members present.

Motion No. M2000-20 - Authorizing the Executive Director to execute a contract amendment with LTK Engineering Services for systems engineering final design for Central and Tacoma Link, and systems construction management and services during construction and start-up for Tacoma Link Light Rail Project in the amount of \$20,516,347 with a 10% contingency of \$2,051,63 for a total amount not to exceed \$22,567,982.

It was moved by Mr. Nickels and seconded by Mr. Phelps that Motion No. M2000-20 be approved as presented.

Mr. Nickels reported that contingency was an issue for this motion as well. The contingency amount was reduced from 15% to 10%, with Board concurrence recommended. If the 10% contingency amount is exceeded, staff will come back to the Board for approval.

The motion to approve Motion No. M2000-20 was carried by the unanimous vote of all Board members present.

ST Express Early Implementation Opportunities and Marketing Update

Ms. Agnes Govern introduced Ms. Gloria Overgaard, who has been with ST for over a year as the Implementation Program Manager, and who has been the Acting Program Manager for Regional Express for the last three months.

Ms. Overgaard stated that on February 18, 2000 staff briefed the Executive Committee on the service implementation plan process. At that time the Executive Committee directed staff to analyze potential early implementation opportunities for May 2000.

In analyzing potential early implementation opportunities, staff checked with Community Transit, King County Metro and Pierce Transit regarding the availability of key elements, such as coaches, operators and parking spaces. Staff performed a financial review of the subarea budgets and the 1999 approved Service Implementation Plan (SIP) and comments from the customers regarding changes they would like to see.

Ms. Overgaard indicated that staff is seeking concurrence by the Board to implement some ST Express services in May 2000 rather than in September 2000. She stated that the Board's concurrence at this meeting would allow time to incorporate the changes into the mid-year service change. The formal action would come with the approval of the Year 2000 SIP scheduled for May 11.

Ms. Overgaard stated that staff was recommending moving the following services to May 2000:

- ◆ Route 505: Implement peak-hour service on the Everett-Northgate Express in May 2000 instead of September 2000. The estimated cost of introducing this service three months early is \$181,000.
- ◆ Route 512: Implement Sunday service between Everett and Seattle in May 2000 instead of February 2002. ST is currently providing bi-directional weekday service from Everett to Seattle. Customers have requested that Sound Transit implement Sunday service immediately instead of in February 2002. The cost of implementing this service 18 months early would be \$403,000.

Ms. Overgaard indicated that the costs for both routes 505 and 512 may be covered with \$584,000 in savings from the 1999 savings operating cost and projected savings for the 2000 Community Transit hourly rate. She stated that Community Transit had resources for May implementation of both of these routes.

- ◆ Route 574: Implement weekend and evening service between Pierce County and Sea-Tac Airport in May 2000 instead of September 2000. Route 574 currently operates from Tacoma to Sea-Tac. Pierce Transit has requested early implementation of weekend and evening service because of parking availability at the Tacoma Dome Station.

Ms. Overgaard indicated that the early implementation cost of the Route 574 may be covered by deferral of Route 585, service from Lakewood to Auburn, which was scheduled to be implemented in September 2000. King County Metro and Pierce Transit staff has suggested deferral of Route 585 until the South Hill park-and-ride lot is completed.

In response to a question from Mr. Enslow about ridership projections for the Route 574, Ms. Govern indicated that there is a substantial time savings, of 30 to 40%, with the ST Express service over current Pierce Transit service. She stated that the ridership is currently below projections, partly because staff has not advertised that route because of constrained park-and-ride capacity. The SR-512 lot and the Tacoma

Dome lot are at capacity. Ms. Govern pointed out that capacity would be expanded by restriping the SR-512 lot to add 40 to 50 parking spaces. Also, according to Pierce Transit, parking at the Tacoma Dome lot is at less demand in the summer. Finally, Pierce Transit and ST have opened overflow parking in the Tacoma Dome area. The second phase of overflow parking will become available in the September/October 2000 time frame.

(Mr. Sims arrived at this time.)

Mr. Nickels asked if Mr. Earling was seeking a motion.

Mr. Earling responded that the Board would have an opportunity to act on this formally in May, but that staff was seeking concurrence at this meeting. He stated that a Board member should, however, make a motion if they would like to hold off on the implementation of this early service.

Ms. Betty Laurs, Director of Communications, Marketing, and Human Resources, presented information to the Board on marketing opportunities for an early implementation of some bus service. She began by placing the discussion in the context of the overall marketing program, referring Board members to a 1999 update (copy on file). ST began by funding additional service on the Seattle/Tacoma Express and Metro's Bellevue-Seattle Route 226 before taking over routes in September 1999. Ridership has increased on the Seattle Express by about 30%. There have been substantial increases on the Bellevue to Seattle route, and the additional Bellevue service allowed Metro to reallocate their service hours on the Eastside. Ms. Laurs continued to say that nine new routes were started with a major marketing effort to build market and rider awareness.

Ms. Laurs indicated that initial ST Express routes fall into two basic categories: existing routes with established high ridership, such as the Seattle Express, the Bellevue to Seattle and Everett to Seattle routes, and two new routes, which have been constrained due to circumstances out of ST's immediate control. These new routes are the Route 574, from Tacoma to SeaTac, which has been constrained due to a lack of parking capacity at the Tacoma Dome Station, and the Route 570, from West Seattle to SeaTac to downtown Seattle, which has been constrained by lack of park-and-ride facilities. Several stops were added in February to expand access to the route.

Ms. Laurs stated that the initial plan was to begin implementing a marketing strategy in May to increase ridership on these routes. A key theme ST will be advertising in its material is the two-way all day service, especially in Snohomish County, in an attempt to build on reverse commuter ridership.

Ms. Laurs concluded by saying that if the Board chooses an early implementation program, ST can accelerate its route promotion plan and expand it to include the new Route 505 being proposed for May.

Art Program Update

Ms. Carol Valenta, Public Art Manager, reported that ST has commissioned Mr. Peter DeLory to produce photographs that chronicle, interpret and honor ST's work. She stated that he would be taking photographs in neighborhoods before, during and after construction.

Ms. Valenta indicated that Mr. DeLory is recognized for his 25 years of experience. He has over 40 pieces displayed in locations from the Seattle Art Museum to the Smithsonian.

Mr. DeLory presented his first set of photographs to the Board.

Mr. Sutherland indicated that he, Mr. Drewel and Mr. Sims recently participated in an event with AK Media relative to designing billboards for the question of saving salmon in the Pacific Northwest. They have sponsored a series of workshops in elementary, junior and high schools, creating very artistic and thoughtful billboards. He stated that there will be presentations made honoring the kids who are the creators of the billboards at a Sonics game. He suggested that staff consider implementing a similar program, which might help educate people about ST

Committee Reports

Finance Committee

Mr. Nickels reported that the Finance Committee has been informed that the annual audit is in process. The results will be presented on April 20.

The Committee adopted several items, some of which were recommended to the Board, as well as the following that do not require Board approval:

- 1) Motion No. M2000-24 - Authorizing increasing a contract with Denny Miller for federal representation.
- 2) Motion No. M2000-25 - Executing a contract for traffic engineering and final design for Link.
- 3) Motion No. M2000-26 - Authorizing a contract for geotechnical engineering for Link for the alignment south of downtown Seattle and north of the Boeing Access Road.
- 4) Motion No. M2000-27 – Authorizing the Executive Director to execute a contract with Huitt-Zollars, Inc., for civil engineering final design services for the Central Link Light Rail Project from the International District to east of Interstate 5.

Finally, Mr. Nickels indicated that he was pleased to announce that Motion No. M2000-23 awarded a contract with Lugo for construction of the Puyallup commuter rail station. He stated that the action was exciting because ST is making progress in Pierce County, and that the contract has been awarded at \$900,000 lower than the engineer's estimate. This is the first contract awarded under the Project Labor Agreement (PLA). There was debate and concern about how a PLA might affect bids. ST received 14 bids for this project, creating a successful kick-off for the Puyallup station.

Central Link Implementation Task Force

Ms. Gates reported that she chaired the task force's last meeting in Mr. McIver's absence. She indicated that all task force members were gone on ST business and that she was the only member in attendance. She stated that staff raised seven decision points, and that she made all of the necessary decisions. Board members will be informed, and all task force members will be contacted by phone.

In summary, Ms. Gates said she chose in favor of the maximum number of bikes and wheelchairs on the light rail cars, made a decision about lighting for security purposes, and chose a push button so only one

door will open for exiting passengers. There was a discussion on how to design grips for both short and tall people. Board members will be receiving a briefing from staff on these issues. In the McClellan neighborhood, ST will do some great structural art treatment. ST is looking at a better way to place that station as well. There was wonderful testimony.

Ms. Gates concluded by stating that on March 17 staff will address the questions raised at the last meeting chaired by Mr. McIver. Those answers will be forthcoming. Staff is doing a good job in answering those questions.

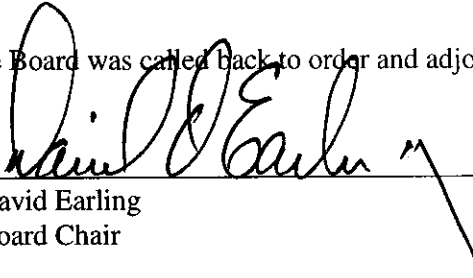
Other Business

Mr. Earling reminded Board members of the Puget Sound Regional Council (PSRC) general assembly meeting on March 16 at 3:30 p.m. in this room.

Executive Session


Mr. Earling announced that the executive session is being held to discuss negotiations with BNSF. There will be no decision made at the conclusion of the executive session. The Board will adjourn at the end of the executive session.

The Board recessed into executive session at 3:40 p.m. The Board was called back to order and adjourned at 4:05.



David Earling
Board Chair

ATTEST:



Marcia Walker
Board Administrator

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