

**Sound Transit
Board Meeting Summary Minutes
March 23, 2000**

Call to Order

Board Chair Dave Earling called the meeting to order at 2:34 p.m. in the Snohomish County PUD Auditorium, 2320 California Street, Everett, 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) Ann Davis, City of Lakewood Councilmember

(A) Bob Drewel, Snohomish County Executive

(P) David Enslow, City of Sumner Councilmember

(A) Mary Gates, City of Federal Way Councilmember

(P) Jane Hague, King County Councilmember

(P) Ed Hansen, City of Everett Mayor

(A) Richard McIver, City of Seattle Councilmember

(A) Rob McKenna, King County Councilmember

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

(P) Kevin Phelps, City of Tacoma Councilmember

(A) Paul Schell, City of Seattle Mayor

(P) Ron Sims, King County Executive

(P) Cynthia Sullivan, King County Councilmember

(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:

Doug Sutherland, Pierce County Executive

Public Comment

Mr. Philip Grega

Report of the Chair

Mr. Earling reported that the Board would hold an executive session prior to taking action on Resolution No. R2000-03 to discuss real estate negotiations.

He further stated that the Board would be working from a revised agenda. Two action items on the agenda were being brought directly to the Board for action without a committee recommendation because the prior Executive Committee meeting was cancelled.

Mr. Earling advised the Board that all legislation related to Sound Transit (ST) had been passed by a unanimous vote and that two pieces of legislation and \$80 million had been moved out of the House budget the night before.

Executive Director Report

Mr. Bob White reported that on Sunday, April 9, Sound Transit would be spending the day with a 120-member delegation of business, government, and transportation leaders from Nashville. He said they are considering

introducing commuter rail into their existing system and chose the Puget Sound for their intercity visit specifically to see and learn about our Sounder Commuter Rail project.

Consent Agenda

Minutes of January 13 and January 27, 2000 Board Meetings

It was moved by Mr. Nickels, seconded by Mr. White, and carried by the unanimous vote of all Board members present that the Consent Agenda be approved as presented.

Citizen Oversight Panel Report

Mr. Reid Shockey, Chair of the Citizen Oversight Panel (COP), briefed the Board on the panel's 6th semi-annual review of Sound Transit for the period of July 1 through December 31, 1999 (copy on file).

Mr. Shockey went over the following key points of the report:

- **Central Link Light Rail:** The most critical decision for the public during the period reviewed was the Northgate to SeaTac alignment for light rail. The Board's November decision was unanimous and balanced, sending a message that ST's vision for Puget Sound is secure. The Board committed to the Northgate extension of light rail and came half way towards addressing the Tukwila concerns.
- **Tacoma Link Light Rail:** The Tacoma segment is in final design and vehicle procurement is on schedule.
- **Regional Express:** Good progress continues to be made with nine new routes operating. The first park-and-ride lot opened in July; final design was begun on the Overlake Transit Center, the Pacific Avenue overpass in Everett, and the Bellevue Transportation Center. Preliminary engineering and environmental reviews were underway on 19 additional projects.
- **Sounder Commuter Rail:** Construction of five stations was initiated in the second half of 1999. The Everett to Seattle environmental impact statement was issued with design allowing for minimal incursion into sensitive shoreline and wetland areas. Due to circumstances beyond the agency's control, delays have occurred in the implementation of the Tacoma to Seattle schedule.
- **Budget:** Building the system for \$3.9 billion in 1995 dollars will not happen. The reason for increases are known, with much of the increases due to the Board's efforts to respond to community desires. In working to understand the budget dynamics, the responsiveness of the staff has been outstanding. The COP believes that strategies are in place to respond to the overruns and shortfalls so that the final program budget will be close to the public's expectations.
- **Communications, Outreach, and Community Relations:** Outreach continues to receive mixed reviews. Despite management changes and responses to such feedback, criticism continues that staff has its minds made up when coming to a situation, they don't listen to citizens, and they are unfamiliar with the local history. The COP believes staff is hard working and under pressure. Efforts must continue to have the right staff dealing with the right stakeholders on the right issues at the right time.
- **Board of Directors:** Board and Committee meeting attendance has improved significantly. The COP has received positive comments about willingness of Board members to discuss and resolve disagreements. The process to select new Board members and the failure to have agreed upon criteria for candidates is a concern.

Mr. Shockey concluded that Sound Move is on track for completion in 2006. He stated that there are difficult issues to address and difficult decisions to be made. He mentioned that systems are in place to monitor progress, and he assured the Board that the Citizen Oversight Panel would continue to be involved.

Mr. Nickels stated that the Finance Committee had the panel's report the week before. He thanked Mr. Shockey and the panel members for the quality of the report and for the work they perform as volunteers.

Mr. Earling added his thanks to Mr. Shockey and the panel members for the continued good work.

Action Items

Motion No. M2000-28 - Reappointing to the Citizen Oversight Panel for a final three-year term expiring March 2003: Art Carter, Allan Darr, Bertha Eades, Virginia Gunby, Tony Hudson, Tom Luthy and Larry Shannon

It was moved by Mr. Nickels, seconded by Ms. Davis, and carried by the unanimous vote of all Board members present that Motion No. M2000-28 be approved as presented.

Executive Session

At 3:06 p.m., the Board convened an executive session to discuss real estate negotiations.

The Board reconvened open session at 3:15.

Resolution No. R2000-03 - Authorizing the Executive Director to acquire, dispose, or lease certain real property interests by negotiated purchase or by condemnation and to pay eligible relocation and reestablishment benefits to affected parties as necessary for the construction and operation of the Sound Commuter Rail components of a transportation center located at Smith Avenue and Pacific Avenue in Everett

It was moved by Mr. Nickels, seconded by Mr. Sims, and carried by the unanimous vote of all Board members present that Resolution No. R2000-03 be approved without the final page of the document.

Architectural and Final Design Update for Tacoma Link

Mr. Paul Bay, Director; Ms. Sue Comis, Project Manager; Ms. Debora Ashland, Architect; Mr. Mike Merrick, Program Manager; and representatives of OTAK reported on the Tacoma Link Light Rail system.

Mr. Bay gave an overview of the Tacoma line stating that it is 1.6 miles long and begins at the Tacoma Dome. The track travels along 25th Street, then onto Pacific Avenue going past the University of Washington Tacoma, the Washington State History Museum, and Union Station before turning west to Commerce Street. There will be five stations with a maintenance base at the east end of the line. The vehicles have been ordered and are currently being built. Mr. Bay advised that construction would begin in the fall. The goal is to have the system complete and in operation for the opening of the Convention Center in 2002.

Ms. Ashland discussed the design issues with the stations. She added that by working with the community, the design team learned a lot and developed a process for the Tacoma line that will also work on the Central Link line. The resulting designs have received positive responses from the Tacoma City Council, the Pierce County Council, and the community.

The design team then gave a detailed presentation illustrating the stations with models and drawings.

Committee Reports

Finance Committee

Mr. Nickels stated that at the last Finance Committee meeting the members received the COP report and adopted the following motions:

- Motion No. M2000-29, a contract with AA Acquisition Project Management for the Everett to Seattle, Lakewood to Tacoma Sounder system as well as significant activity for the Regional Express program.
- Motion No. M2000-30 authorizing a change order on the Kent commuter rail station design.
- Motion No. M2000-31, which is a similar motion for the Tukwila station.

Other Business

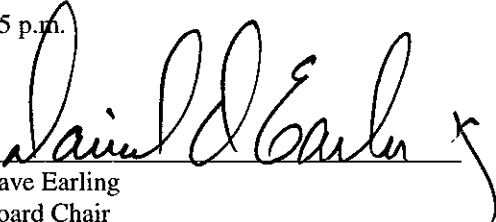
Mr. Earling expressed his thanks to the Board members and to the business, labor, and environmental communities who have contributed to the efforts in Olympia and asked for continued support.

Next Meeting

Thursday, April 13, 2000
2:30 to 4:30 p.m.


Adjourn

As there was no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 3:55 p.m.



Dave Earling
Board Chair

ATTEST:



Marcia Walker
Board Administrator