

**Sound Transit
Executive Committee Minutes**

August 4, 2000

Call to Order

Chair Dave Earling called the meeting to order at 1:43 p.m. The meeting was held in the Board room of Union Station, 401 South Jackson Street, Seattle, WA.

Attendance

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

Public Comment

No one offered public comment.

Report of the Chair

Mr. Earling read his letter to the Seattle Times editor, responding to Mr. Bruce Ramsey's column "Light rail sounds good, but is it worth the expense?"

"First, light rail has proven to be not just good but exceptional, providing hundreds of millions of riders around the globe with environmentally clean, reliable and efficient transportation. After more than 60 years without rail transit, Seattle and our region will soon join the ranks of other world-class cities with Link light rail and Sounder commuter rail.

Mark Twain once said, "there are lies, damn lies and statistics." We could debate the capacity of the twin-track, four-car 21-mile Central Link light rail system (which is a total of 42 miles of rail service, 20 hours a day) as equal to 12, six or three freeway lanes, but the main question is left out of the debate: where along I-5 could we even build just three new lanes?

From Tukwila to Northgate, I-5 is basically a 20-mile, eight-to-12 lane mostly elevated freeway. We've already narrowed lanes and squeezed every inch out of I-5 we possibly can, and the construction costs for a new ship canal bridge and purchasing miles and miles of right-of-way to expand the rest of I-5 would easily be multi-billions of dollars. Link light rail will provide an effective emergency bypass route for the most congestion-clogged arterial in the state.

While our region and traffic congestion continues to grow, how expensive will it be if we continue to second-guess ourselves and do nothing? Costs of construction, real estate, labor and the countless people-hours of productivity lost due to traffic congestion will only continue to increase.

The Sound Transit plan has been studied for more than a decade, nearly six out of ten voters approved it and the taxes to pay for it, and I believe they are eager for us to get on with it."

Mr. Earling also gave a status report on the Full Funding Grant Agreement process.

Executive Director Report

Mr. Earling announced that the report of the Executive Director would be held until the committee had acted on the action items.

Action Items

Resolution No. R2000-12 – Signaling the agreement by Sound Transit to accept revenues raised by another local jurisdiction’s ballot proposal to help finance a portion of Sound Transit’s high capacity transit system

It was moved by Mr. Drewel, seconded by Mr. Sims and carried by the unanimous vote of all members present that Resolution No. R2000-12 be presented to the Board with a do-pass recommendation.

Motion No. M2000-72 - Relating to establishment of a steering committee for the \$50 million Transit Oriented Community Development fund for Southeast Seattle, providing for associated tasks and procedures, and directing staff to develop Memoranda of Understanding with the City of Seattle and King County identifying their offsetting contributions to the Link Light Rail program

It was moved by Mr. Drewel, seconded by Mr. Sims and carried by the unanimous vote of all members present that Motion No. M2000-72 be presented to the Board with a do-pass recommendation.

Executive Director Report

Mr. Earling asked Executive Director White for his report.

Mr. White announced that Sound Transit had been asked by the Oregon-based environmental journal, Open Spaces, to prepare the second article in a series that address Link Light Rail. The article would be published in the journal's fall edition. The first article, critical of the light rail project, appeared in the summer edition.

Public Involvement/Community Outreach Update

No report.

Next Meeting

The next Executive Committee meeting is scheduled for Friday, August 18, 2000, from 1:30 to 2:30. As there was no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 2:45 p.m.

ATTEST:

David Earling
Executive Committee Chair

Marcia Walker
Board Administrator