

**SOUND TRANSIT
TRANSIT OPERATIONS TASK FORCE
Meeting Summary
April 24, 2008**

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 11:09 a.m. by Chair Dow Constantine in the Ruth Fisher Boardroom, 401 South Jackson Street, Seattle, Washington.

Roll Call

Chair

(P) Dow Constantine, King County Council Vice Chair

(P) Fred Butler, Issaquah Deputy Council President

(P) Deanna Dawson, Edmonds Councilmember

(P) Dave Enslow, Sumner Mayor

(P) John Marchione, Redmond Mayor

(A) Julia Patterson, King County Council Chair

Report of the Chair

Chair Constantine welcomed members to the first meeting of the Transit Operations Task Force.

Overview of Proposed Work

Chair Constantine explained that the task force would be making recommendations to the Board on key operational issues. He asked the other members to share their expectations and interests. Boardmembers asked that competitive bids, efficiency improvements, Tacoma Link fares, and operational sustainability be looked at as part of the Task Force's work.

Discuss Schedule, Deliverables

Agnes Govern, Executive Director, described past work on transit operations by Sound Transit and the Citizen Oversight Panel. Ms. Govern outlined the three policy issues that staff would like the Transit Operations Task Force to give direction to the Board on; future operations plans, plans for managing transit-related services, and system access and parking.

Ms. Govern also shared the schedule and explained the timing and staff work involved. Based on the tight schedule of the Task Force, Ms. Govern noted that the topic of Tacoma Link Fares was something that should be reviewed by the Executive Committee and Board. Boardmember Butler wanted to make sure that Board policy discussions on Link Fares are integrated with what the task force is working on; Ms. Govern responded that they would be coordinated.

Overview of Facilities, Service, Operating Costs, and Fare Metrics

Bonnie Todd, Transportation Services Director, and David Huffaker, Transportation Services Finance Planner, presented a PowerPoint on the service, costs, and issues affecting service delivery.

Staff responded to questions from Boardmember Enslow and Boardmember Butler about how costs are calculated.

Boardmember Butler asked whether Sound Transit's service partners will be involved with sharing concerns about efficiency and whether they are aware of the work the Task Force will be doing. Ms. Todd confirmed that they have been involved in suggesting improvements and are aware of the Task Force; she also noted that the analysis is being done objectively. Mr. Huffaker also responded to Boardmember Butler's and Board member Constantine's questions about the partners' service contracts and routes.

Mr. Huffaker responded to questions from Chair Constantine about the cost increases in providing bus service; he noted that a more detailed discussion of bus service costs will take place in July. Chair Constantine also asked that the cost per passenger trip or mile be calculated in addition to the service cost.

Boardmember Butler asked about the expected outcomes for the Task Force; including ending with a sustainable business model. Ms. Govern responded that the first policy discussion is scheduled for August and that all the current cost information will be presented so that the Task Force can make a recommendation to the Board.

Boardmember Marchione asked about the work the Task Force will be doing on service access; staff responded that a discussion on parking and service access is scheduled for November and December.

Boardmember Dawson asked whether operations and maintenance services were combined in the current contracts with the transit agencies. She felt that operations and maintenance base capacity may need to be jointly discussed and that performing operations in-house should be examined. Staff responded that those issues could be brought back to the committee.

Boardmember Dawson also asked how much subcontracting was currently being done for service contracts; staff responded that Sound Move outlined that Sound Transit contract with the existing transit agencies, but that Community Transit does currently contract with First Transit to provide service and two contracts were put out for competitive bid because of the small size or short duration of the work. Ms. Govern also noted that maintenance base capacity is an issue no matter what is decided for future operations and maintenance.

Boardmember Butler was interested in looking at an integrated approach with other agencies for service access and parking issues. Ms. Govern told the Task Force about the Transit Integration Group which includes a service planner representative from each of the agencies and meets to discuss integration issues; she also thought the Washington State Ferries should be involved in the integration work. Boardmember Butler expressed interest in hearing updates on the coordination work that is being done by that group.

Chair Constantine said he did not anticipate having public comment at every meeting, but did note that the Task Force would give notice of opportunities in the future.

Chair Constantine also noted that Boardmember Patterson was not able to attend because of a conflicting meeting but that she was enthusiastic about being a member of the Task Force.

Next Meeting:

Thursday, May 22, 2008, 11:00 a.m. to 12:45 p.m., Ruth Fisher Boardroom, 401 South Jackson Street, Seattle WA.

Adjourn

There was no other business; the meeting was adjourned at 12:18 p.m.



Dow Constantine
Transit Operations Task Force Chair

ATTEST:



Katie Weiss
Board Coordinator