

SOUND TRANSIT EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING
Summary Minutes
June 5, 2008

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 10:33 a.m. by Chair Greg Nickels in the Ruth Fisher Boardroom, 401 South Jackson Street, Seattle, Washington.

Roll Call

Chair

(P) *Greg Nickels, Seattle Mayor*

Vice Chairs

(A) *Aaron Reardon, Snohomish County Executive*

(P) *Claudia Thomas, Lakewood Councilmember*

(P) *Fred Butler, Issaquah Deputy Council President*

(A) *Paula Hammond, WSDOT Secretary*

(A) *John W. Ladenburg, Pierce County Executive*

(P) *Julia Patterson, King County Council Chair*

(A) *Larry Phillips, King County Councilmember*

(A) *Ron Sims, King County Executive*

Board Administrator Marcia Walker announced that a quorum of the committee was not present at roll call.

Report of the Chair

Chair Nickels announced that last week, he, along with Boardmembers Phillips, Sims, Constantine, and Patterson, attended the ceremonial completion of fourteen miles of continuous light rail track between Seattle and Tukwila.

He also attended the opening of Mukilteo Station on Saturday, May 31, 2008. Sound Transit provided free boardings on the Sounder Home Run Service train for those traveling to the Seattle Mariners baseball game. Regular Sounder service for the station opened on Monday, June 2, 2008.

Yesterday, he met with Federal Transit Administration (FTA) Administrator Jim Simpson. Mr. Simpson assured him that money for University Link through the \$750 million Full Funding Grant Agreement is expected to arrive later this year.

Chief Executive Officer's Report

Chief Executive Officer Joni Earl relayed comments she received from a resident of Mukilteo regarding the amount of time and money he believes he will save as a result of the opening of Mukilteo Station.

Ms. Earl announced the groundbreaking of the Everett Station Phase 2 project, which takes place on Friday, June 6, 2008.

Discussion Items

ST2

Office of Policy, Planning, and Public Affairs Executive Director Ric Ilgenfritz and Chief Financial Officer Brian McCartan gave the staff presentation.

Mr. Ilgenfritz provided an update on public outreach efforts. Five of seven public open houses have been conducted; there has been a strong turnout of both boardmembers and those who support transit system expansion. Mr. Ilgenfritz reported that so far the agency has received approximately 3,000 comments via the Sound Transit website and 400 by phone. There have been about 4,500 visits to the ST2 website. He also reported that many respondents, while they support transit expansion, have also expressed frustration with the pace of expansion.

Mr. Ilgenfritz then reviewed the remaining schedule for a potential 2008 vote.

Mr. McCartan reviewed the Sound Move financial policies and the policy updates that were adopted by the Board as part of the 2007 ST2 package. The major updates included providing more flexibility for the Board to build and operate an integrated regional system.

He also reviewed the accountability measures contained in Sound Move; such as Board oversight and reporting, a citizen oversight panel, subarea commitments, tax rollback triggers, and no new major projects can be constructed without voter approval. A survey was presented that compares Sound Transit's accountability measures with other agencies across the nation. He also presented some additional options that the Board could consider; such as cost and bonding ceilings, revenue caps, fixed commitments related to schedule, and strengthening tax rollback triggers.

The committee discussed the current accountability measures and whether any modifications should be made. Boardmembers Patterson and Butler stated an interest in a future discussion about subarea equity. Chair Nickels and Vice Chair Thomas stated an interest in a future discussion about the criteria for triggering a tax rollback.

Link Fare Policies and Pricing

Ms. Earl gave a brief background and called upon Project Managers Brian Brooke and Sarah Lovell to give the staff presentation.

After providing a background on the equipment and regional fare policies, Ms. Lovell described the three Link fare structure policy options being considered; a distance-based fare (currently used for Sounder), a flat fare, and a zone-based fare (currently used for ST Express buses).

During discussion of the flat fare option, Chair Nickels and Boardmember Patterson expressed interest in revisiting the youth fare rate as a potential means of encouraging more ridership. Ms. Earl and Mr. Brooke added that the senior/disabled fare is set by FTA regulations and that Sound Transit is very limited in what it can modify. Ms. Lovell, Mr. Brooke, and Ms. Earl discussed the effects of fare structure on fare enforcement. While a flat-fare rate is relatively easy to check for proper fare payment, a distance-based payment may be harder to enforce because of the proximity of some stations to each other.

Ms. Lovell also presented options on whether fares should be charged in the Downtown Seattle Ride Free Area. She described the agency's current policy criteria on providing free service – none of which apply to the Central Link Initial Segment. She and Ms. Earl discussed the effects on fare

enforcement, revenue, and ridership counts. Chair Nickels asked staff to check the agency's historical records on the Board's prior discussions on these issues in the Ride Free Area.

Mr. Brooke advised that next year, staff plans to analyze the current policy of providing free service on Tacoma Link.

Ms. Lovell presented policy options on whether to charge peak and off-peak time of day fares, or maintain a constant fare schedule throughout the day.

Ms. Earl advised that the Executive Committee will in the future need to discuss parking policies at the Tukwila International Boulevard Station.

Action Item

Minutes from the April 3, 2008 Executive Committee meeting

Chair Nickels announced that approval of the April 3, 2008 minutes would be postponed to the July 3, 2008 Executive Committee regular meeting due to a lack of quorum.

Other Business

None.

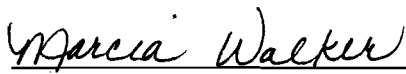
Next Meeting

Thursday, July 3, 2008 (tentative)
10:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.
Ruth Fisher Boardroom

Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 11:30 a.m.

ATTEST:



Marcia Walker
Board Administrator



Greg Nickels
Executive Committee Chair