

SOUND TRANSIT EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING
Summary Minutes
January 8, 2009

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 10:37 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

(P) *Aaron Reardon, Snohomish County Executive*

(P) *Claudia Thomas, Lakewood Councilmember*

(P) *Fred Butler, Issaquah Deputy Council President* (A) *Larry Phillips, King County Councilmember*

(A) *Paula Hammond, WSDOT Secretary*

(P) *Ron Sims, King County Executive*

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

Board Administrator Marcia Walker announced that a quorum of the committee was present at roll call.

Report of the Chair

Chair Nickels welcomed Pat McCarthy, newly-elected Pierce County Executive to the Sound Transit Board.

Chair Nickels asked for a moment of silence in memory of former Boardmember Jack Crawford, who passed away December 27th.

Chief Executive Officer's Report

Joni Earl, Chief Executive Officer reported that the first of three open houses on neighborhood parking and Link fares will be held this Saturday, January 10th at El Centro de la Raza from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. She explained that Seattle Department of Transportation is looking at parking proposals around Link light rail stations. She noted that information on Sound Transit proposals for Link light rail fares will also be available at the open house and Sound Transit staff will be in attendance to answer questions.

Ms. Earl reported that the East Link Draft Environmental Impact Statement comment period has begun. Five open houses and a public hearing will be held to provide information about the project and gather comments on the document. In addition, meetings with neighborhoods and stakeholder groups are taking place.

Ms. Earl announced a special signing event on January 15, 2009 for the University Link Full Funding Grant Agreement with the Federal Transit Administration. The event will take place in the Great Hall of the Sound Transit Union Station building from 11:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

Ms. Earl also spoke about the recent challenges experienced by Sound Transit as a result of snow and flooding. She noted that following difficulties with special Sounder service for the December 21, 2008 Seahawks game, procedures are being reviewed. She also spoke about flooding impacts to the Sounder south line.

Public Comment

None.

Discussion – 2009 Service Implementation Plan Amendment

Mike Bergman, Program Manager for Service Planning and Development, gave a presentation on a proposed amendment to the 2009 Service Implementation Plan. Mr. Bergman explained that an amendment to the 2009 Service Implementation Plan is necessary to add additional service approved by the passage of the ST2 plan. The ST2 plan includes an increase of 100,000 bus service hours on existing corridors, a 17% increase. In order to fully implement the plan, an additional 62 buses will be needed. Initially, service increases will take place in off-peak times using the existing bus fleet, by mid to late 2010 more buses and added bus base capacity will allow improvements to peak period bus service. Mr. Bergman explained that Board approved service standards would be used to determine where hours would be programmed; bus routes that are at capacity would receive higher priority. He noted that a consultant study that projects ridership demand through 2015 will also be used to assist with service improvements.

Mr. Bergman noted that in February 2010, a major restructure of bus service in the South would take place in coordination with the start-up of Link service to the airport and increased Sounder service. Improvements will include new ST2 bus hours and redeployed existing service to provide two new routes. Mr. Bergman explained that one of the main objectives is to redeploy buses efficiently and minimize duplication. Part of the work would include establishing budget contingency for emergencies.

Mr. Bergman also provided information on the implementation schedule. Trip level improvements will begin in June. Additional improvements will take place in September 2009 and February 2010 and will be included in the amendment to the 2009 Service Implementation Plan this April. Six open houses are scheduled to review the changes to the 2009 Service Implementation Plan. This fall there will be public outreach to review the Draft 2010 Service Implementation Plan which will continue ST2 service improvements.

Mr. Bergman explained that once fleet procurement and bus base expansions take place, the 2010 service improvements will be possible. He gave an overview of some upcoming actions that will increase Sound Transit's fleet and base capacity, including procurement of additional buses through remaining Sound Transit and Metro options, and contributions to a base expansion project in Snohomish County. Talks are also taking place with King County Metro on a near term project to increase base capacity in order to accommodate an additional 45 Sound Transit buses.

Action Items

Minutes from the December 4, 2008 Executive Committee meeting

It was moved by Boardmember Thomas, seconded by Boardmember Reardon, and carried by the unanimous vote of all members present that the consent agenda be approved as presented.

Items for Recommendation to the Board

Motion No. M2009-04 – Authorizing the chief executive officer to support an amendment to the Project Labor Agreement (PLA) at the Joint Administrative Committee, which would include in the scope of the PLA a framework to allow recognition of applicable local, area or national collective bargaining agreements.

Leslie Jones, Diversity Program Manager, presented the staff report.

Chair Nickels asked if there was controversy around the Project Labor Agreement amendment authorized by this motion; Ms. Jones confirmed that the amendment was supported by parties related to the PLA. Ms. Jones described work related to the amendment including meetings with management and labor groups and contractors.

It was moved by Boardmember Sims, seconded by Boardmember Reardon, and carried by the unanimous vote of all members present that Motion No. M2009-04 be forwarded to the Board with a do-pass recommendation.

Other Business

Chair Nickels announced an ORCA Smartcard workshop on January 9, 2008 and invited Boardmembers to attend.

Executive Session

None.


Next Meeting

Thursday, February 5, 2009
10:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.
Ruth Fisher Boardroom

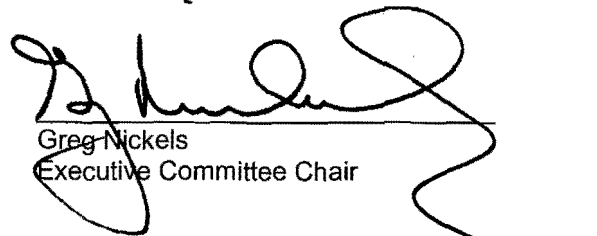
Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 10:59 a.m.

ATTEST:



Marcia Walker
Board Administrator



Greg Nickels
Executive Committee Chair