

SOUND TRANSIT BOARD MEETING
Summary Minutes
July 23, 2009

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 1:34 p.m. by Chair Greg Nickels, in the Ruth Fisher Boardroom, 401 South Jackson Street, Seattle, Washington.

Roll Call

Chair

(P) Greg Nickels, City of Seattle Mayor

Vice Chairs

(A) Aaron Reardon, Snohomish County Executive
(P) Claudia Thomas, Lakewood Councilmember

Boardmembers

(P) Julie Anderson, Tacoma Deputy Mayor	(A) Joe Marine, City of Mukilteo Mayor
(P) Mary-Alyce Burleigh, Kirkland Councilmember	(P) Pat McCarthy, Pierce County Executive
(P) Fred Butler, Issaquah Deputy Council President	(A) Julia Patterson, King County Councilmember
(A) Richard Conlin, Seattle Council President	(P) Larry Phillips, King County Councilmember
(P) Dow Constantine, King County Council Chair	(P) Paul Roberts, Everett Councilmember
(P) David Enslow, City of Sumner Mayor	(P) Kurt Triplett, King County Executive
(P) Paula Hammond, WSDOT Secretary	(P) Peter von Reichbauer, King County Councilmember
(P) John Marchione, City of Redmond Mayor	

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

Report of the Chair

- Central Link light rail opened with 51,000 boardings on July 18, 2009 and 41,000 boardings on July 19, 2009. Chair Nickels congratulated all who had a part in building Central Link light rail.
- Executive Session would be held at the end of the meeting.

Chief Executive Officer's Report

- Sound Transit employees worked mandatory volunteer shifts on both days of the opening weekend and volunteered to help new riders in the days following opening, a needed effort to adequately serve the large number of riders on opening weekend.

Central Link Light Rail System Launch and Service Report

Joni Earl detailed the opening weekend events including the preview ride for the media and dignitaries on Friday July 17, 2009 and the opening weekend festivities.

Ahmad Fazel, Link Light Rail Executive Director, provided the history of the initial segment of Link light rail. The project was adopted by the Board in November of 2001 with a budget of \$2.4 billion and completion target of July 2009. In October 2003, Sound Transit signed the Full Funding Grant Agreement with the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) and broke ground two weeks later. The Beacon Hill tunnel was the critical path of the project leaving no float in the schedule.

Mr. Fazel stated that Sound Transit is making sure all remaining work is completed before closing out contracts. The remaining work includes the communications system and punch list items on some projects.

Mr. Fazel explained some of the issues that arose during testing and opening weekend. The issues with Mount Baker and Beacon Hill elevators during opening weekend were repaired and Sound Transit will continue to monitor operations. The noise complaints along the alignment are being addressed by

monitoring the noise of the light rail vehicles (LRVs) along the Tukwila and MLK segments. If it is determined that the noise is excessive, mitigation measures will be taken.

Mr. Fazel stated that the LRVs have gone through acceptance but that there are open items. The manufacturer of the LRVs is on site to complete the open items. The warranty will continue for several years for all elements of the project. There are several contracts that have been closed out; the Operations and Maintenance Facility (OMF) and the Downtown Seattle Transit Tunnel (DSTT). Construction contracts including the Martin Luther King Jr. Way S. contract and the Beacon Hill contract remain open due to disputes.

Mr. Fazel updated the Board on the DSTT signal system issue that closed the tunnel to LRVs on July 23, 2009. A power outage from one of the breakers caused interruptions to the power supply and the signal systems. Ms. Earl added that there is a bus bridge for riders who want to ride Link from the DSTT. Ron Tober, Deputy CEO, stated that King County Metro immediately put the bus bridge in operation after the DSTT service interruption, a situation that was tested during the pre-revenue period.

Mr. Tober reported on Link operations. The 58 days of pre-revenue testing allowed Sound Transit to test the LRVs, the system, the operators, and emergency drills, including a line interruption and the use of a bus bridge. From the beginning of revenue service on Monday, July 20, 2009 until the DSTT power failure on Thursday, July 23, 2009 there were 3 days of smooth operations. The LRVs, communications systems, power systems, and control systems are performing well. The operators are also performing well and maintaining the schedule.

Mr. Tober announced that ridership numbers are not available yet. One-third of the LRVs have automatic passenger counters that will provide passenger data. Sound Transit staff is downloading and calibrating the counts to have accurate ridership numbers. By the week of July 27, 2009 Sound Transit should have some preliminary ridership numbers. Physical counts and average trip volumes determined the opening weekend ridership numbers. Data from the Ticket Vending Machines (TVMs) shows that 13,000 tickets were purchased in the first 3 days of revenue service for \$50,000 in revenue. The TVM tickets sold do not translate directly to ridership due to the use of passes and King County Metro bus transfers.

The Tukwila Station currently lacks signage to notify customers which platform the next train will arrive. A King County Metro and Sound Transit volunteers have been guiding customers to the correct platform. By the week of July 27, 2009, electric signage systems will be in place. High volumes are being experienced by Tukwila Station TVMs, so on July 27, 2009 two additional TVMs will be installed.

Mr. Tober stated that prior to the signal system outage on July 23, 2009, the DSTT was operating well. The DSTT is the only facility in the world where buses and trains operate in an underground tunnel with passenger boardings.

Mr. Tober noted that the major issue with operations has been with software errors and locking up of the TVMs. Sound Transit IT staff has been working with contractors to install software patches, which appear to be solving the problem. Currently TVMs are experiencing 90 to 95% uptime.

East Link Presentation: Valuation Methodologies for the Conversion of the I-90 Center Lanes to Light Rail Transit

(The draft report is on file with Board Administration)

Ric Ilgenfritz, Director of Planning, Environmental and Project Development, and consultants Alan Merkle and Stephen DiJulio presented on the valuation of the I-90 center lanes for the conversion to light rail use.

Mr. Ilgenfritz noted that in the most recent legislative session, the State Legislature enacted a proviso concerning use of the I-90 center roadway by light rail, and the potential agreement between WSDOT and Sound Transit on its use. The proviso provided \$300K for an independent analysis of methodologies to value the reversible lanes of I-90 to be used for light rail. Consultants Alan Merkle of Stoel Rives and Stephen DiJulio of Foster Pepper were selected by the four principals (Joni Earl, WSDOT Secretary Paula Hammond, Senate Transportation Committee Chair Mary Margaret Haugen and House Transportation

Committee Chair Judy Clibborn) to provide the independent analysis. The legislative proviso also directed WSDOT to complete negotiations with Sound Transit by December 1, 2009 following completion of the independent analysis.

Mr. Merkle gave an overview of the draft report. The consultants collaborated with WSDOT and Sound Transit on the report which has two key objectives: 1) provide a comprehensive legal and policy review and analysis of key agreements, research appropriate federal and state regulations, laws and guidelines and to interview key federal transit and highway officials, and 2) research valuation methodologies and develop instructions for performing the valuation.

Mr. Merkle stated the draft report was completed with one significant exception, consultation with the Federal Highway Administration (FHA) and FTA. The consultants will finish the report when FHA and FTA agree on a joint federal position.

Mr. DiJulio explained the valuation methodologies and the recommendations to the Board. There are three appraisal methods; cost, sales, and income. Cost approach considers the cost of the improvement with depreciation, sales approach considers what a comparable property would sell for, and income approach considers what a property would generate in net-income. Most appraisals employ all three methods followed by a reconciliation of the three values.

Mr. Merkle described the remaining steps in the process; consultation with FHA and FTA and a presentation to the four principals. The four principals will agree, disagree, modify or give additional instructions on the report. Phase 2 will be carried out when the four principals approve methodology. Mr. Merkle and Mr. DiJulio will be giving this presentation to the Joint Transportation Committee on July 30, 2009.

Ms. Earl responded to a question from Boardmember Pat McCarthy on the timeline for the decision on I-90, stating that the Board will be asked to approve the negotiated agreement. In addition, Board input and direction will be sought during the process. Boardmember Hammond noted that a lawsuit has been filed that may have an implication on the agreement. The legislature and other stakeholders will be a part of the agreement process; it will not be limited to WSDOT and Sound Transit.

Public Comment

(Comments on file with the Board Administrator)

Will Knedlik

Action Items

Minutes of the June 25, 2009 Meeting

It was moved by Vice Chair Thomas, seconded by Boardmember Burleigh, and carried by the unanimous vote of all Boardmembers present that minutes of the June 25, 2009 Board meeting be approved as presented.

Executive Session

At 3:01 p.m., Chair Nickels announced that the Board would convene a 10-minute executive session authorized under RCW 42.30.110 subsection (1)(i) to discuss the litigation regarding I-90 that would affect Sound Transit. Legal Executive Director Desmond Brown confirmed that the topic was appropriate for executive session.

Chair Nickels reconvened the meeting at 3:14 p.m.

Other Business

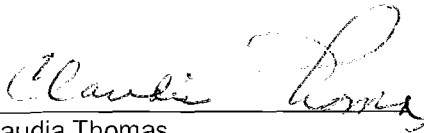
None.

Next Meeting

Thursday August 13, 2009
1:30 to 4:00 p.m.
Ruth Fisher Boardroom

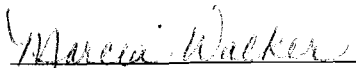
Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 3:15 p.m.



Claudia Thomas
Board Vice Chair

ATTEST:



Marcia Walker
Board Administrator