

SOUND TRANSIT EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING
Summary Minutes
February 4, 2010

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 10:43 a.m. by Chair Aaron Reardon in the Ruth Fisher Boardroom, 401 South Jackson Street, Seattle, Washington.

Roll Call

Chair

(P) *Aaron Reardon, Snohomish County Executive*

Vice Chairs

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

(P) *Claudia Thomas, Lakewood Councilmember*

(P) *Dow Constantine, King County Executive*

(P) *David Enslow, Sumner Mayor*

(A) *Paula Hammond, WSDOT Secretary*

(A) *Pat McCarthy, Pierce County Executive*

(A) *Mike McGinn, Seattle Mayor*

(P) *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 Reardon welcomed the new members of the Executive Committee; King County Executive Dow Constantine, Sumner Mayor Dave Enslow, and Seattle Mayor Mike McGinn.

Chair Reardon announced that in lieu of a Board meeting on February 11, 2010, the Board will hold a joint workshop with the Bellevue City Council at the Meydenbauer Center in downtown Bellevue on February 11, 2010 from 1:30 p.m. to 4 p.m. to discuss East Link.

Chief Executive Officer's Report

Joni Earl, CEO, provided an update on the state legislative session. There were three bills requested by the Board-adopted Sound Transit 2010 Legislative Program. The first declares explicitly in the law that Sound Transit projects are essential public facilities. The Senate version of the bill has been approved by the Senate Transportation Committee, and awaits further action pending the Senate calendar. The House version of the bill has been approved by the House Local Government Committee and is pending in the House Rules Committee.

The second requested bill would provide for automatic inclusion of areas subsequently annexed by local jurisdictions already within the Sound Transit district. The Senate version of annexation bill was approved by the Senate Transportation Committee and is currently pending in the Senate Rules Committee. The House version of the bill has been approved by the House Local Government Committee and has had a hearing in the House Transportation Committee, with further action expected soon.

The third bill would include a Sound Transit representative on the State's Capital Projects Advisory Review Board (CPARB). This bill has been approved by the House State Government and Tribal Affairs Committee and is now pending in the House Rules Committee. CPARB is on the Governor's list of committees for proposed elimination.

There are two other bills of interest to Sound Transit. House Bill 2855 (HB 2855), sponsored by Representative Marko Liias, would provide \$20 vehicle licensing fees (VLF) for local transit agencies, excluding Sound Transit. King County Deputy Executive Fred Jarrett testified in support of raising the VLF to \$75. In addition to providing local transit agencies with access to the VLF, the bill would establish a Joint

Transportation Committee (JTC) Advisory Panel to develop a "blue print for transit investments and improve connectivity." Ms. Earl has met with Rep. Liias and House Transportation Committee Chair Judy Clibborn to request that Sound Transit and other transit agencies be named to the JTC Advisory Panel. In addition to seeking Sound Transit representation on the JTC Advisory Panel, Ms. Earl has requested expanding the scope of the committee to address connectivity with State transportation facilities with transit.

Senate Bill 6570 (SB 6570) is the second bill of interest, sponsored by Senate Transportation Committee Chair Mary Margaret Haugen. SB6570 would provide private transportation providers access to transit facilities. The Association of Washington Business is pursuing SB 6570 which would require WSDOT and transit agencies to make accommodations for private transportation providers to have access to park-and-rides, HOV lanes, and transit-only lanes that have received state funding. Sound Transit has received state grants for three park-and-ride facilities; Auburn, Puyallup, and Sumner. Existing law requires Sound Transit to allow private providers access to state funded park-and-ride lots pursuant to an agreement. The concern with SB 6570 is that it establishes that private providers would be granted access to park-and-ride lots that are under 90% capacity during non-peak hours. Another concern is the broad definitions within the bill may provide private transportation providers access to the Downtown Seattle Transit Tunnel (DSTT). Sen. Haugen is amenable to excluding the DSTT from SB 6570. The definition for private providers within SB 6570 is for vehicles that carry eight or more people.

Ms. Earl announced that Seattle is hosting a smart growth conference. Ms. Earl will be meeting with US DOT Secretary Ray LaHood at the conference to discuss the South 200th Link Extension.

On February 3, 2010, Ms. Earl represented Chair Reardon at a meeting coordinated by the Discovery Institute to discuss the BNSF corridor in East King County. Boardmembers Butler and Balducci also attended. The meeting highlighted the possibility of passenger commuter rail in the corridor.

Ms. Earl stated that she attended the annual APTA CEO seminar. President Obama's budget was released during the seminar, allowing APTA leadership to discuss the budget and funding issues. Sound Transit's \$110 million U Link Full Funding Grant Agreement was included in the budget. The budget included new rail safety programs.

Board Committee Structure Discussion

Ms. Earl presented Chair Reardon's proposal for reorganizing the Board's committee structure. In 2009, Sound Transit began an internal restructure. During the 2009 Sound Transit Board retreat, the Board discussed restructuring the Board committees to better align with the new agency structure. Boardmembers also expressed interest in more policy options and more in-depth conversations. This proposed Board committee structure meets those interests while balancing Boardmembers' limited availability. Former Chair Nickels was tasked with following up on the committee restructuring after the retreat, however he felt it best be handled by the new Board Chair.

Ms. Earl and Chair Reardon have met with Sound Transit management and Boardmembers to develop the proposed committee structure. The intent is to align the agency's needs with the Board's desire to be more knowledgeable and engaged in policy discussions. The goal was to use the time currently allotted for Board and committee meetings.

Under the proposed structure, Board meetings would be held once a month on the fourth Thursday. The Executive Committee would continue to meet on the first Thursday, but be given more responsibility, particularly with policy and financial issues. The Executive Committee would still have no final action authority. The Finance Committee's authority and responsibilities would be transferred among the Executive Committee and two new committees, Capital Committee and Operations and Administration Committee. The Operations and Administration Committee would build on the work of the Transit Operations Task Force and cover agency administrative matters. The Audit and Reporting Subcommittee of the Finance Committee (ARC) would become a Committee of the Board. The membership and scheduling of ARC would be unchanged. The responsibilities of the Central Link Oversight Committee (CLOC) would be moved to the Capital Projects Committee. CLOC is currently on hiatus, and would be disbanded under this proposal. As

Boardmembers and the Citizen Oversight Panel (COP) have stated, Sound Transit is now largely an operating agency, requiring the need for oversight of operations. As proposed, the new Capital Projects Committee would meet on the second Thursday and focus on capital projects. With Board adoption of the 2010 Budget, the Transit Improvement Plan was created, and project details require Board review. On the third Thursday, the new Operations and Administration Committee would meet. There will be action items that will need to go to both new committees. The goal with the proposed structure is more transparency, oversight, engagement and efficiency.

Each committee would have seven to nine Boardmembers and each subarea would be represented. Chair Reardon stated that in order for this structure to be successful, Boardmembers must be active and engaged.

Chair Reardon expressed his desire to implement the restructuring by March 1, 2010. The 2010 Board retreat will likely be held in May, giving the Board two months of operating under the new committee structure to discuss at the retreat.

Ms. Earl shared the Citizen Oversight Panel's concern that holding only one Board meeting a month may delay projects due to a delay in approving transactions. Ms. Earl stated that Sound Transit staff should be prepared well enough in advance to not be heavily impacted by the restructure, however if necessary, there is an existing mechanism that allows the Executive Committee to act on behalf of the Board in an emergency situation. Ms. Earl said that the Board may need to be open to bring action items directly to the Board, with the concurrence of the Board and Committee Chairs, to prevent a possible six-week delay.

Chair Reardon directed staff to prepare the necessary action items to implement the proposed structure for action at the February 25, 2010 Board meeting and to contact Boardmembers to determine committee membership interest and scheduling availability.

Public Comment

None.

Action Items

Minutes from the December 3, 2009 Executive Committee meeting

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

Next Meeting

Thursday, March 4, 2010
10:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.
Ruth Fisher Boardroom

Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 11:23 a.m.



Aaron Reardon
Executive Committee Chair

ATTEST:



Marcia Walker
Board Administrator