

SOUND TRANSIT BOARD MEETING

Summary Minutes

May 26, 2011

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 1:48 p.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

Boardmembers

(P) Claudia Balducci, Bellevue Councilmember

(P) Richard Conlin, Seattle Council President

(A) Dow Constantine, King County Executive

(P) David Enslow, City of Sumner Mayor

(P) Jake Fey, Tacoma Councilmember

(P) Paula Hammond, WSDOT Secretary

(P) John Marchione, City of Redmond Mayor

(P) Joe Marine, City of Mukilteo Mayor

(P) Pat McCarthy, Pierce County Executive

(P) Joe McDermott, King County Councilmember

(P) Mike McGinn, City of Seattle Mayor

(P) Julia Patterson, King County Councilmember

(P) Larry Phillips, King County Councilmember

(P) Paul Roberts, Everett Councilmember

(P) Peter von Reichbauer, King County Councilmember

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

REPORT OF THE CHAIR

Chair Reardon reported that Union Station celebrated its 100th birthday on May 20, 2011. Boardmember Dave Enslow spoke at the event, sponsored by the Alliance for Pioneer Square, Sound Transit, and the National Park Service. Mr. Enslow is the only current Boardmember who was on the Board before Sound Transit moved into Union Station. Union Station opened as Sound Transit's headquarters in 1999 after a complete renovation. The station served Union Pacific Railroad passenger trains for 60 years and is an important part of Seattle's railroading history.

Chair Reardon announced that the Board would hear public comment on the South Corridor Plan and the East Link Update/PE Cost Estimate presentations because of the high level of public interest in them. Items will begin with staff presentations, followed by public comments, then Board discussion. Public comment on the action items would follow the Board's usual practice.

Boardmember von Reichbauer has requested to participate in the meeting by telephone. Board Rules and Operating Procedures allow members to attend meetings by teleconference. Procedurally, Board members' requests are acted on by motion prior to consideration of action items and require a 2/3 affirmative vote of the members who are physically in attendance.

It was moved by Boardmember Marine, seconded by Boardmember McDermott, and carried by the unanimous vote of 16 members present that Boardmember von Reichbauer be allowed to participate in the Board meeting by telephone.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT

The 30-day State Legislature Special Session ended the night before. Sound Transit's legislative efforts focused primarily on low-profile issues that help the Agency and other local. Sound Transit hoped to receive \$12.5 million in Regional Mobility Grant funding, however the competitive-based list of projects was revised by legislators and Sound Transit will receive \$5 million for the South 200th Station.

Copies of the Service Delivery Quarterly Performance Report were included in Boardmembers' packets. Snohomish County bus routes showed growth in ridership even before the new Mountlake Terrace Freeway Station opened. Ridership has also increased on most cross-lake bus routes despite delays of SR 520 tolls until later this summer.

At its meeting last week, the Operations and Administration Committee authorized two research contracts, totaling \$2.1 million. Annually, the Agency conducts rider surveys and public opinion polls. These two contracts provide for additional research services to support the goal to increase ridership. Chair Reardon requested staff present the work plan to the Board before any money is spent beyond the current year. The Board needs to understand the approach, how the finances are managed, and, based on that research, make decisions that best represent taxpayer dollars and the Agency's efforts to increase ridership.

REPORTS TO THE BOARD

Financial Report

CFO Brian McCartan presented the financial report. Because of the Agency's revised financial forecast last year, the Board restructured the capital and operating program to address financial shortfalls. The Agency is tracking fairly close to budget goals. While East King County and Pierce County have sustained revenue above their goal, Snohomish and South King County subareas are underperforming.

South Corridor Plan

CEO Joni Earl asked Ric Ilgenfritz, PEPD Director, and David Beal, Acting Director of the Office of Planning and Development, to present the South Corridor update. Under current revenue projections, Sound Transit will not have funding for South 272nd Street Project within the ST2 timeframe.

The Board does not need to make final decisions at this point. The Board could direct staff to perform a high-level, conceptual alternatives analysis for the segment beyond South 200th Street that encompasses Highline Community College, South 272nd Street, and the Tacoma Dome Station. Sound Transit would be prepared to move forward with preliminary engineering and an environment impact statement for the Highline Community College segment. Following Board discussion, Ms. Earl summarized the Board's direction - proceed with preliminary engineering to Highline Community College; and begin the alternatives analysis from Highline Community College to the Tacoma Dome.

PUBLIC COMMENT

(Comments on file with the Board Administrator)

Skip Priest

Linda Kochmar
Jean Burbidge
Larry Yuk
Mark Dublin

East Link Update

Ric Ilgenfritz, PEPD Director, and Don Billen, East Link Project Manager, presented the East Link update. Thirty percent design is completed, including updated cost estimates and a cost-risk analysis.

The East Link scope changes identified by the Board last year have resulted in a net cost reduction; however, there is still a funding shortfall; \$33 million for the at-grade option through Bellevue and a \$309 million shortfall with the tunnel option. A third entrance to the tunnel, estimated to cost \$48 million, has been proposed to provide better connectivity to the Bellevue Transit Center. An additional walkway at the Overlake Hospital Station has been proposed which would cost \$1.5 million. Studies of alternatives for downtown Bellevue have identified cost savings, but have added more than a year to the schedule and would impact revenue service projections.

At this stage, 140 risk items that can affect either cost or schedule have been identified. Technical risks in Segment A are associated with retrofitting existing structures on the I-90 floating bridge. In Segment C, construction through downtown Bellevue will be very constrained for either an at-grade or a tunnel alignment because of utilities, businesses, and residences. The risk assessment yielded a 65-75% confidence level at the current stage of design, which is reasonable for the preliminary engineering stage of design.

The City of Bellevue has studied an alternative alignment through south Bellevue and has produced an alternative cost estimate. The City's preferred alignment is an alternative of the B7R route. The most significant revision is the location of the park and ride facility closer to the I-90 interchange, near the Enatai neighborhood. The study has shown that further design modifications proposed by the City of Bellevue would increase cost, have greater environmental impacts, and would not significantly reduce cost with shared freight and light rail tracks. The B7R alternative route with the tunnel option would increase budget shortfalls to approximately \$450 million.

The final environmental impact statement is scheduled to be issued in July. The Board's decision on the East Link alignment will be informed by the final environmental impact statement.

CONSENT AGENDA

Voucher Certification for April 1, 2011 through April 15, 2011
Voucher Certification for April 16, 2011 through April 30, 2011
Minutes of the April 28, 2011 Board Meeting
Motion No. M2011-35
Motion No. M2011-39

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.

PUBLIC COMMENT

(Comments on file with the Board Administrator)

Scott Rodgers
Leslie Lloyd

Chair Reardon announced that the Board would consider the Consent Agenda and hear public comment. The remaining items on the agenda would be moved to the June 23, 2011 Board meeting.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

None.

OTHER BUSINESS

None.

NEXT MEETING

Thursday, June 23, 2011
1:30 to 4:00 p.m.
Ruth Fisher Boardroom

ADJOURN

The meeting was adjourned at 4:26 p.m.



Aaron Reardon
Board Chair

ATTEST:



Marcia Walker
Board Administrator

APPROVED on 7-28-2011