

SOUND TRANSIT OPERATIONS AND ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE MEETING

Summary Minutes

February 7, 2013

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 1:00 p.m. by Chair Paul Roberts, in the Ruth Fisher Boardroom, 401 South Jackson Street, Seattle, Washington.

ROLL CALL

Chair

(P) Paul Roberts, Everett Councilmember

Vice Chair

(P) John Marchione, Redmond Mayor

Boardmembers

(P) Fred Butler, Issaquah Deputy Council President (A) Mary Moss, Lakewood Councilmember

(P) Dave Enslow, Sumner Mayor

(A) Marilyn Strickland, Tacoma Mayor

(P) Joe McDermott, King County Councilmember

Katie Flores, Board Coordinator, announced that a quorum of the committee was present at roll call.

REPORT OF THE CHAIR

None.

DEPUTY CEO REPORT

Mike Harbour, Deputy CEO, announced that Sound Transit will hold open houses on the Tacoma Link Expansion on February 12-13, 2013. At the open houses, Sound Transit will provide more information on the costs and benefits of the six corridor alternatives being considered for the expansion of Tacoma Link. The potential expansion was approved by voters in 2008 as part of the Sound Transit 2 ballot measure.

REPORTS TO THE COMMITTEE

Ridership and Operations Report

Martin Young, Commuter Rail Operations Manager, gave a brief update on Sounder mudslides on Sounder North. A full presentation with representatives from BNSF will be given at the February Board meeting.

Rainfall has been higher than normal and 162 Sounder trips have been cancelled as a result. This is the highest number of Sounder trips cancelled in a single season since the start of Sounder North service. When mudslides take place, Sound Transit works with local agencies and private companies to ensure riders can still use express service. The Federal Railroad Administration has provided a \$16 million grant to WSDOT for slide mitigation efforts; this funding has been accelerated to 2013. The grant funding will be used to reduce impacts in strategic locations on the corridor. Sound Transit, WSDOT, BNSF and Amtrak are continuing to collaborate and are seeking a joint approach that focuses on long-range solutions.

David Huffaker, Operations Business Manager, reviewed changes to the Monthly Modal Performance Data Sheet to respond to Boardmember requests. The report now includes a chart displaying fare evasion trends for Link and Sounder. Average Sounder evasion was at 0.75% and Link was at 2.8%; both are below the 3% target set by Sound Transit fare enforcement. Parking utilization information

was also included in the report showing utilization for individual lots managed by Sound Transit. The parking utilization numbers also include counts of vehicles parked near the station when Sound Transit has that information. Boardmember Butler asked that additional parking utilization information be provided that includes parking facilities owned or managed by partners. Mr. Huffaker also explained changes to monthly performance measures including changing the preventable accidents measure to a rolling 12 month average, and showing farebox recovery as an actual monthly performance rather than a rolling 12 month average. The farebox recovery targets shown on the data sheet are the higher of the Board policy minimums or the ridership goal anticipated in the annual budget. Mr. Huffaker also noted that ST Express just missed the target for complaints. Sound Transit was at 15.009 complaints instead of 15 complaints per 100,000 boardings; many complaints were related to the elimination of the ride free zone and overcrowding on buses due to mudslides.

Vida Covington, Director of Operations Support Services, reviewed December 2012 ridership. December 2012 concluded a record ridership year for Sound Transit with over 28 million total boardings. All ridership targets in the 2012 budget were met or exceeded. ST Express ridership continued a strong upward trend, in part because all boardings within downtown Seattle are now included in the totals. Tacoma Link boardings declined, in part because of a reduced number of downtown Tacoma promotional events during December 2012 compared with the same month a year earlier. Total Sounder boardings were up 7%, with a 13% increase on the South Line offsetting a 38% drop on the North Line. The North Line decline was caused by slide-related service disruptions that started Dec. 17 and continued through the end of the year.

Ms. Covington also reported on a bus fire that occurred in January. Frozen condensation in the air brake system caused the service brake to be continuously applied which led to the fire. Training is underway and Sound Transit is reviewing electronic brake monitoring systems potentially mitigate this issue. The bus that caught fire is covered under the operating agreement with Community Transit and insurance adjusters are completing their report.

BUSINESS ITEMS

Items for Committee Final Action

Minutes of the November 1, 2012 Operations and Administration Committee Meeting

It was moved by Boardmember McDermott, seconded by Boardmember Butler, and carried by unanimous vote that the minutes of the November 1, 2012 Operations and Administration Committee meeting be approved as presented.

Minutes of the December 6, 2012 Operations and Administration Committee Meeting

It was moved by Boardmember McDermott, seconded by Boardmember Butler, and carried by unanimous vote that the minutes of the December 6, 2012 Operations and Administration Committee meeting be approved as presented.

Motion No. M2013-04: Authorizing the chief executive officer to execute a contract with Ameresco Quantum, LLC to provide design and installation services for the Federal Way Transit Center Lighting Retrofit project for a total authorized contract amount not to exceed \$579,334.

John Weston, Facilities Maintenance Manager, and Bill Glaeser, Facilities Project Manager gave the staff presentation on Motion No. M2013-04 and M2013-05.

It was moved by Boardmember Butler, seconded by Boardmember Enslow, and carried by unanimous vote that Motion No. M2013-04 be approved as presented.

Motion No. M2013-05: Authorizing the chief executive officer to execute a contract with Ameresco Quantum, LLC to provide design and installation services for the Union Station HVAC Controls and Water Conservation Upgrade project for a total authorized contract amount not to exceed \$407,481.

It was moved by Boardmember Butler, seconded by Committee Vice Chair Marchione, and carried by unanimous vote that Motion No. M2013-05 be approved as presented.

Item for Recommendation to the Board

Resolution No. R2013-03: Establishing a system access policy for Sound Transit's provision of infrastructure and improvements to facilitate customer access to Sound Transit services, and superseding Motion No. M2002-122.

Ric Ilgenfritz, Director of Planning, Environment and Project Development, Brian Brooke, Research Policy and Development Director, and Michael Miller, Customer Facilities and Accessible Services Manager, reviewed the System Access Policy. System access was a focus of the April 2012 Board Retreat and a draft policy on system access was first reviewed by the Board at its January 2013 meeting.

The system access policy was developed based on Board direction at the April 2012 retreat to update Sound Transit's parking policy. The key takeaways from the retreat included the need to address immediate parking issues while reviewing and updating policy, be responsive to the local land use and travel patterns while creating integrated multi-modal access strategies, manage existing parking to optimize use by transit users, and carefully coordinate changes and expansion of transit parking with other agencies.

The draft policy includes statements on purpose, includes strategies to promote system access and authorizes tools for Sound Transit to manage parking proactively. The policy would allow Sound Transit to initiate pilot projects to test and tailor new management tools. The goals of the policy are to provide a balanced approach for motorized and non-motorized access and alternate methods to access the station, and to provide for efficient management of parking resources.

The policy supersedes the existing policies regulating the use of Sound Transit facilities adopted by the Board in 2002. The policy restricts parking to transit customers except where other uses are allowed and expands Sound Transit's enforcement options to include warnings, tickets and booting.

Mr. Brooke reviewed the new policy elements. The policy defines Sound Transit's role in investing in access features for Sound Transit facilities and in supporting access to Sound Transit from surrounding communities. System access improvements would be prioritized based on criteria including ridership impacts, the total lifecycle costs to Sound Transit, local and Sound Transit plans that would be affected, and public input. Sound Transit will work with local jurisdictions to manage demand for transit facilities and encourage use of non-parking types of access. Sound Transit may work with outside parties to provide bicycle amenities. The policy will promote efficient use of available parking by using new approaches such as designated HOV stalls, parking permits for transit riders and the potential for daily parking fees.

Boardmembers asked about implementation of the System Access Policy and asked that Sound Transit ensure the policy is acceptable to other transit providers in the region. Staff responded that following Board review and adoption of a System Access Policy, proposals for pilot programs could be presented to the Board along with a budget amendment to implement the pilot programs. Based on the experience with the pilot proposals, the Sound Transit Board can determine next steps.

The Committee asked that the final policy review be delayed until March so staff can provide more information on implementation of the policy and potential pilot projects can take place with jurisdictions and partners.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

None.

OTHER BUSINESS

None.

NEXT MEETING

Thursday March 7, 2013
1:00 to 3:00 p.m.
Ruth Fisher Boardroom

ADJOURN

The meeting was adjourned at 2:46 p.m.


Paul Roberts
Operations and Administration Committee Chair

ATTEST:


Katie Flores
Board Coordinator

APPROVED on June 5, 2013, KWF