

SOUND TRANSIT EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING
Summary Minutes
February 6, 2014

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 10.34 a.m. by Committee Chair Fred Butler, in the Ruth Fisher Boardroom, 401 South Jackson Street, Seattle, Washington.

ROLL CALL

Chair

(P) Dow Constantine, King County Executive

Vice Chairs

(P) Marilyn Strickland, City of Tacoma Mayor

(P) Paul Roberts, Everett Councilmember

Boardmembers

(P) Fred Butler, Issaquah Mayor

(P) John Lovick, Snohomish County Executive

(P) Pat McCarthy, Pierce County Executive

(P) Ed Murray, Seattle Mayor

(A) Lynn Peterson, WSDOT Secretary

(P) Larry Phillips, 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 Constantine welcomed boardmembers to the first Executive Committee meeting of the year. He provided information regarding the Seattle Seahawks Championship parade, which took place in Seattle on February 5. It is estimated that the event was attended by 700,000 people, many of whom relied upon transit services to get to and from the parade. Transit agencies throughout the region were stretched to capacity, and Sound Transit used all available resources to transport riders. Although some regular riders were frustrated with crowded vehicles, the flexibility of Sound Transit and other transit agencies working together helped to reduce congestion on the road and transport fans as best they could. While ridership numbers are still preliminary, this day was likely a record-setting day for the number of total Sound Transit riders. Approximately 20,000 riders used Sounder services, additional buses were put into service, and Link carried approximately 4,000 people per hour and utilized four-car trains for the first time in the agency's history.

DEPUTY CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER REPORT

Mike Harbour, Deputy CEO, reported that there will be two upcoming open house events regarding the East Link Extension. One will cover the South Bellevue segment and the other the East Main Station area. The first open house will be held this evening, from 5pm to 7pm at Enatai Elementary School, and the second open house will be held on Tuesday, February 25th from 5pm to 7pm at the Red Lion Hotel in Bellevue.

Sound Transit's Wellness Program was recently recognized as a Platinum Level Recipient of the American Heart Association's Fit-Friendly Worksites Recognition program. Platinum is the highest level of recognition. Sound Transit offers an array of programs and amenities for our employees, including lunchtime health and fitness classes, access to a gym, and efforts to help people walk,

run and bike to work. Sound Transit has an active Wellness Program and is proud of this recognition by the American Heart Association.

Sound Transit recently released the request for qualifications for transit-oriented development for four of the five surplus parcels at the Capitol Hill Station. This has been a long and productive process with the City of Seattle and the community to make sure that great developments are built on these sites. Once a short-list of proposers is created, Sound Transit will meet with community members to field their thoughts and goals, and then will move into the request for proposals phase. Additionally, Sound Transit has released a request for proposals for property near the Othello Station. This is another joint transit-oriented development effort with the City of Seattle.

Sound Transit's parking pilot program is moving along. Single Occupancy Vehicle (SOV) permits are sold out at the Sumner and Mukilteo Stations. SOV permits are still available at the Issaquah and Tukwila International Boulevard Stations, and High Occupancy Vehicles (HOV) permits remain available at all stations.

During the first couple days of the project, too many parking spaces were designated as "permit-only", leaving them vacant without enough permit holders to fill them and prompting complaints from customers. However, this problem has been corrected. Staff will continue to monitor the pilot program, respond to any issues, and document lessons learned.

REPORTS TO THE COMMITTEE

Sound Transit Long-Range Plan Update

Ric Ilgenfritz, PEPD Executive Director, Karen Waterman, Planning and Development Manager, and Karin Ertl, Senior Environmental Planner, provided the report.

Ms. Waterman explained that staff is conducting a series corridor studies that are voter approved through ST2. These studies are designed to provide information to the Board, but these studies do not limit what can be studied in the Long-Range Plan. Whereas the Long-Range Plan is financially unconstrained, the information developed in the Long-Range Plan can be used to create a new financially constrained System Plan for Sound Transit to add to the existing ST2 and Sound Move System Plans.

Ms. Ertl commented that in October and November of 2013, Sound Transit conducted extensive community outreach on updating the Long-Range Plan. Using input from the public, alternatives were identified to study in a Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (SEIS), which is expected to be complete in the summer, followed by a public comment period. Staff will complete the Final SEIS later this year and plan to present a Long-Range Plan update to the Board in December for possible adoption.

Boardmembers discussed the existing Long-Range Plan and potential updates to the plan. Mr. Ilgenfritz commented that the issue that will eventually be before the Board is to decide whether to refine existing aspects of the Long-Range Plan and whether to add additional elements to the plan.

Update on the Federal Way to Tacoma High Capacity Transit Corridor Study

Ric Ilgenfritz, PEPD Executive Director, and Eric Chipps, Senior Transportation Planner, provided the report.

Mr. Chipps explained that there are seven options considered in this evaluation connecting the Federal Way City Center and the Tacoma Dome, with possible stations at the Federal Way City Center, South Federal Way, Milton, Fife, and near the Tacoma Dome. Six of these options involve light rail and one option involves bus rapid transit. Each of the seven options generally follows the path of either State Route 99 or Interstate 5, is grade-specific, and has an early estimated cost.

Mr. Ilgenfritz mentioned that under the ST2 plan, Sound Transit has authority to plan for light rail to the Federal Way Transit Center, but does not have authority to build beyond South 272nd Street in Des Moines. In order to build light rail beyond South 272nd Street, additional revenue authority would need to be approved by the state legislature and an ST3 System Plan would need to be developed and approved by the voters to fund new projects.

Boardmembers discussed potential areas of future light rail development and the possibility of receiving federal funding to develop light rail beyond the terminus outlined in the ST2 System Plan.

BUSINESS ITEMS

Minutes from the December 5, 2013 Executive Committee meeting

It was moved by Vice Chair Strickland, seconded by Boardmember Butler, and carried by the unanimous vote of all members present that the minutes of the December 5, 2013 Executive Committee be approved as presented.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

None.

NEXT MEETING

Thursday, March 6, 2014
10:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.
Ruth Fisher Boardroom

ADJOURN

The meeting was adjourned at 11:47 a.m.



Dow Constantine
Executive Committee Chair

ATTEST:



Marcia Walker
Board Administrator

APPROVED on May 1, 2014, JT