

SOUND TRANSIT EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

Summary Minutes

May 7, 2015

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 10.47 a.m. by Chair Constantine, in the Ruth Fisher Boardroom, 401 South Jackson Street, Seattle, Washington.

ROLL CALL

Chair

(P) Dow Constantine, King County Executive

Vice Chairs

(A) Marilyn Strickland, 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

(P) Lynn Peterson, WSDOT Secretary

(P) Larry Phillips, King County Council Chair

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

REPORT OF THE CHAIR

Boardmembers Request to Participate via Teleconference

Boardmember Marilyn Strickland asked to participate in today's meeting by phone. The Board Rules and Operating Procedures allow members to attend meetings by teleconference with a two-thirds affirmative vote of those members in attendance.

It was moved by Boardmember Peterson, seconded by Boardmember Lovick and carried by unanimous vote that Boardmember Strickland be allowed to participate in the Executive Meeting by teleconference.

Chair Constantine remarked that the Legislature is in special session and considering a transportation package providing new funding authority for Sound Transit. The Senate bill would grant \$11.2 billion in new revenue and the House bill would provide \$15 billion, the full authority requested by the Board.

Sound Transit CEO Joni Earl announced to Sound Transit staff that she will retire early next year. Chair Constantine noted that he worked with Sound Transit Human Resources and Legal staff to initiate a national search process which includes the formation of a search committee made up of Sound Transit Boardmembers Fred Butler, Dave Earling, Joe McDermott, Marilyn Strickland and Dow Constantine. Joni Earl will be assisting the committee, in a limited capacity, with the hiring process. Chair Constantine recognized Ms. Earl's role in building Sound Transit's success and assured Boardmembers that there would be time to offer tributes when Ms. Earl retires at the time of the University Link project opening.

Mike Harbour will continue as Acting CEO until a successor is hired. Mr. Harbour will not seek the CEO position.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT

Mr. Harbour acknowledged Sound Transit staff for their efforts during Ms. Earl's absence and expressed his appreciation for the Committee's confidence in him as Acting CEO until a replacement is found for Ms. Earl.

REPORTS TO THE COMMITTEE

Draft Priority Project List Criteria and Process

Chair Constantine noted that Sound Transit staff presented "conceptual scenarios" to the Board on April 23, 2015 and were asked to deliver an initial draft project list to the Executive Committee. Chair Constantine commented that he is committed to fulfilling the vision of the regional spine – to reach Everett, Tacoma, and Redmond – and to serve West Seattle and Ballard, make Bus Rapid Transit on I-405 a reality, and deliver a system that truly serves and connects the entire region.

Ric Ilgenfritz, Executive Director of Planning, Environment and Project Development, and Karen Kitsis, Planning and Development Manager, provided the staff report.

Mr. Ilgenfritz reported that Sound Transit is beginning to identify specific ideas to be analyzed and considered for inclusion in the ST3 plan. This includes representative projects for specific alignments and stations, access improvements and other elements that will make up the ST3 plan. Similar to ST2, the ST3 draft projects will be presented in a specific template that includes a project description, information on cost, benefit, issues and scope as well as constructability assumptions in order to inform the Board. Recommendations provided by the committee will be used to engage the public, jurisdictional partners and transit partners to obtain feedback about ideas to be considered and analyzed. Analysis results will allow the Board to begin putting together the pieces of a system plan. Mr. Ilgenfritz noted that this work is not a final project list or a final system plan.

The draft project list began with a number of projects included in the 2014 Long-Range Plan, capital realigned projects from Sound Move/ST2, and the ST2 High Capacity Transit (HCT) studies. These projects were compared to the core priorities approved by the Board and grouped into five categories. Ms. Kitsis introduced the categories and summarized projects considered in each.

- 1) **Realigned Projects:** Capital projects that were voter-approved in ST2 but deferred due to funding limitations. These projects, depending on schedules, could be prioritized by the Board and funded out of existing tax levels.
- 2) **Enhancements Supporting the Existing System:** Projects that can provide opportunities for improved or additional service along the existing Sound Transit HCT system.
- 3) **Corridors from ST2 HCT Studies:** Projects along the light rail spine including Tacoma, Everett, downtown Redmond and additional corridors.
- 4) **System-wide programs and studies from the Studies 2014 Long-Range Plan:** Programs to fund system-wide enhancements could include a System Access Program, an Innovation and Technology Program, a TOD Program and other studies.
- 5) **Supporting System Expansion:** Elements needed to support the corridors where HCT expansions are possible. These are placeholders and include vehicles, maintenance and storage facilities and ST4 planning.

Mr. Ilgenfritz concluded the presentation by emphasizing that Sound Transit will work proactively to engage with the full spectrum of interested parties. Engagement efforts include the formation of an intergovernmental coordination group and regularly scheduled meetings with jurisdictions. Sound Transit will kick off public outreach after the May 28, 2015 Board Meeting and hold public meetings in each of the sub-areas. A dedicated ST3 website and online survey tool is being launched to provide opportunity for comment from a broad range of stakeholders. The results of public comment and jurisdictional feedback will be prepared for presentation to the Board at the July 23, 2015 meeting.

Boardmember Phillips requested that staff clarify what capacity is available in existing tax levels to address projects considered in category one. Mr. Ilgenfritz explained that combining ST2 and ST3 revenues creates opportunity to accelerate delivery of those projects. Sound Transit plans to deliver remaining ST2 projects at the start of ST3 planning.

Boardmember Murray requested that Sound Transit look at Madison Bus Rapid Transit as included in the 2014 Long-Range Plan. Boardmembers mentioned that they will be working with their constituencies to encourage their participation during this outreach period.

Sound Transit Acting CEO Mike Harbour commented that the Draft Project Priority List is intended to be a thorough but not exhaustive list of projects, and that the Board will have to eliminate some projects and establish clear priorities. Boardmember McCarthy requested that Boardmembers use caution when considering the addition of projects previously removed and balance demand needs with proposals.

Mr. Ilgenfritz finished by stating that Sound Transit anticipates feedback and interest in how the bus system will evolve. As major pieces of rail expansion come into focus, the bus system will be programmed around that to support transit integration.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

BUSINESS ITEMS

Items for Committee Final Action

Minutes of the December 4, 2014 Executive Committee meeting

It was moved by Boardmember Phillips, seconded by Boardmember Peterson, and carried by the unanimous vote of all members present that the minutes of the December 4, 2014 Executive Committee Meeting be approved as presented.

Minutes of the February 5, 2014 Executive Committee meeting

It was moved by Boardmember McCarthy, seconded by Boardmember Lovick, and carried by the unanimous vote of all members present that the minutes of the February 5, 2015 Executive Committee Meeting be approved as presented.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

None.

OTHER BUSINESS

None.

NEXT MEETING

Thursday, June 4, 2015
10:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.
Ruth Fisher Boardroom

ADJOURN

The meeting was adjourned at 11:27 am.



Dow Constantine
Executive Committee Chair

ATTEST:



Kathryn Flores
Board Administrator

APPROVED on August 6, 2015, LM