

## **SOUND TRANSIT BOARD MEETING**

### **Summary Minutes**

**January 26, 2017**

### **CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order at 1:34 p.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

(P) Paul Roberts, Everett Councilmember

(P) Marilyn Strickland, City of Tacoma Mayor

#### Boardmembers

(P) Nancy Backus, City of Auburn Mayor

(P) Joe McDermott, King County Council Chair

(P) Claudia Balducci, King County Councilmember

(P) Roger Millar, WSDOT Secretary

(P) Fred Butler, City of Issaquah Mayor

(P) Mary Moss, Lakewood Councilmember

(P) Bruce Dammeier, Pierce County Executive

(P) Ed Murray, City of Seattle Mayor

(P) Dave Earling, City of Edmonds Mayor

(P) Dave Somers, Snohomish County Executive

(A) David Enslow, City of Sumner Mayor

(P) Dave Upthegrove, King County Councilmember

(P) Rob Johnson, Seattle Councilmember

(P) Peter von Reichbauer, King County

(P) John Marchione, City of Redmond Mayor

Councilmember

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

#### Boardmember Request to Participate via Teleconference

Chair Constantine announced that Vice Chair Roberts asked to participate in the meeting by phone. The Board's 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 Balducci, seconded by Boardmember Backus, and carried by unanimous vote that Vice Chair Roberts be allowed to participate in the Board meeting by telephone.**

### **ELECTION OF THE SOUND TRANSIT BOARD CHAIR AND VICE CHAIRS**

Chair Constantine announced that the meeting would start with the elections for the Sound Transit Board officers. The terms of the current Board Chair and Vice Chairs expired at the end of December. The Board's Rules and Operating Procedures specify that the Washington State Secretary of Transportation chair the meeting for the purpose of the election.

Secretary Millar stated that the Board's Rules and Operating Procedures call for the Executive Committee to meet in November, develop recommendations for officers whose terms are expiring, and to bring those recommendations to the Board at a regularly scheduled meeting in December.

The Executive Committee met in November and recommended Dave Somers from Snohomish County as Board Chair, and Marilyn Strickland from Pierce County, and John Marchione from King County as Vice Chairs.

In December, the Board voted to temporarily suspend the rules to allow the election to take place at the January Board meeting. The Board rules state that once the Board receives recommendations from the Executive Committee, the person presiding will call for additional nominations from the Board. Boardmember Millar called for additional nominations. There were no additional nominations.

**It was moved by Vice Chair Roberts, seconded by Boardmember Balducci, and carried by unanimous vote of all members present to elect Dave Somers as Board Chair and Marilyn Strickland and John Marchione as Board Vice Chairs for a two-year term beginning January 26, 2017, and ending December 31, 2018.**

## **REPORT OF THE CHAIR**

(Boardmember McDermott arrived at this time.)

Newly Elected Chair Dave Somers took over chairing the meeting. Chair Somers thanked Dow Constantine for his work over the last three years as Board Chair.

Chair Somers stated that in his role as Board Chair he would like to look at how business is being done at Sound Transit and by the Board. He would like to hear from Boardmembers about improvements that will ensure Board efficiency and how to increase collaboration around the region with cities, counties, agencies, and partners. He will ask the Executive Committee and Board to review the bylaws, committee structure, and approval processes to ensure agency business is more efficient.

Chair Somers ended by welcoming Pierce County Executive Bruce Dammeier to the Board.

## **CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT**

### SODO Service Interruption

On Friday, January 20, 2017, a major failure occurred in a connection to Link's overhead power lines near Stadium Station causing a significant service interruption. The failure damaged the overhead contact wire as well as the equipment that connects it to the train. Maintenance staff worked through the night and into Saturday morning to inspect and repair the overhead contact system and the equipment on the rest of the fleet to ensure there would be no additional failures.

### Womxn's March

The Womxn's March held on Saturday, January 21, 2017, brought more than 125,000 demonstrators to downtown Seattle. Approximately 80,000 people rode Link light rail, which is a record for Link on a Saturday. Operations and King County Metro assembled a 17th three-car train to help keep the crowd moving.

On the bus side, it was a challenge to meet the high demand. Buses filled quickly, which left passengers standing unserved at their stops. He stated that people showed great patience and, over time, everyone was able to get on transit.

### Link Fatality

On Monday, January 23, 2017, there was a pedestrian fatality at the Othello Station. The incident is being investigated by the Seattle Police Department. A bus bridge was put into place while the on-scene investigation continued.

### Tacoma Trestle Closure and Outreach

In February, there will be a service disruption impacting Sounder commuter rail. Service is being moved off the Tacoma Trestle and onto a two-track concrete and steel bridge accommodate more rail travel.

The crossover work will require closing the Sounder line between Lakewood and Puyallup from midday Friday, February 17, through midday Wednesday, February 22. During that time, Sound Transit will operate a bus bridge to and from Puyallup serving stations in Tacoma, South Tacoma, and Lakewood. Significant outreach will take place in advance to provide information to customers.

### Escalators

Sound Transit has been experiencing problems with the Link escalators, particularly at the University of Washington Station. The agency shares customer frustration and is working with King Country Metro who manages the maintenance contract to find solutions.

## **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Paul W. Locke

Queen Pearl

Alex Tsimmerman, Stand Up America

Joe Kunzler

John Jackson, McDonald's Director of Operations

Mark Dublin

Rebecca Martin, CEO Greater Federal Way Chamber of Commerce

Aida Sanchez-Vela

Liz Drake, Federal Way School Board Director

Carol Gregory, Federal Way School Board

Sally D. McLean, Chief Finance and Operations Officer, Federal Way Public Schools

Ben Wolters, City of Kent

Will Knedlik

Patrick J. J. Kelly

## **REPORT TO THE BOARD**

### Presentation on 2016 and 2017 Sound Transit Milestones

Mr. Rogoff stated that Sound Transit accomplished all the milestones for 2016. Highlights for 2016 included new stations at Capitol Hill, the University of Washington, and Angle Lake; the beginning of construction on East Link Extension; the completion of the last tunnel segment for the Northgate Link Extension; the initiation of mid-day Sounder service; reduced fares for low-income riders on all Sound Transit services; and issuing of contracts to purchase 32 double-decker buses.

For 2017, there are 26 milestones, which are divided up into three categories – Serving our Customers, Building the System, and Planning for the Future.

“Serving our Customers” includes milestones for ST Express and Sounder services. ST Express continues to be the largest commuter bus operation in the nation. In 2017, there will be 15,000 service

hours added to the bus routes. Sounder service will increase with the addition of two round trips between Lakewood and Seattle and the delivery of nine Sounder cab cars.

Most of the construction milestones are within the "Building the System" category and target the East Link and Northgate Link Extensions. Construction will be underway in 2017 on all East Link light rail segments and on Northgate Link's Roosevelt and U District Stations. One milestone will be to meet all established goals for small and disadvantaged businesses.

The majority of the milestones are in the "Planning for the Future" category. Included in this category are releasing the new System Expansion Plan; adopting the scope, schedule, and budget for Lynnwood Link Extension; project development for West Seattle, Ballard, and Tacoma light rail extensions; project development for Bus Rapid Transit on I-405 and SR522; adopting the scope, schedule, and budget for the Puyallup and Sumner Station Access Improvement projects; selecting the preferred alternatives for Kent and Auburn Station Access Improvements; and completing the construction of the Tacoma Trestle.

### Northgate Link Extension Briefing

Mr. Don Davis, Executive Project Director Northgate Link Extension, presented the briefing. The Northgate Link Extension project is trending within budget, and project-wide schedule float remains at five months. The last three years have been primarily focused on tunnel related work.

The project is transitioning into station construction. Excavation of the Roosevelt and U District Stations is completed. The Roosevelt Station site will be turned over to the station contractor in February 2017 and the U District Station site will be turned over in June 2017. There are 23 cross passages to be built. Eleven of the passages were in difficult soil conditions and required soil freezing. Eight have been completed, two are stabilized, and one is currently in the freezing process.

The Northgate Station groundbreaking was on January 13, 2017. This station features an elevated guideway and station; a street-level transit island; a 450-stall parking garage, and access improvements.

## **CONSENT AGENDA**

### Minutes of the November 29, 2016, Board Meeting

#### Voucher Certification for December 2016.

Resolution No. R2017-03: Authorizing the chief executive officer to acquire or lease certain real property interests, including acquisition by condemnation, and to reimburse eligible relocation and reestablishment expenses incurred by affected owners and tenants as necessary for the Puyallup Station Improvements project.

Resolution No. R2017-04: Authorizing the chief executive officer to acquire or lease certain real property interests, including acquisition by condemnation and to reimburse eligible relocation and reestablishment expenses incurred by affected owners and tenants as necessary for the Lynnwood Link Extension.

**It was moved by Boardmember Johnson, seconded by Boardmember von Reichbauer, and carried by unanimous vote that the consent agenda be approved as presented.**

## **BUSINESS ITEMS**

Motion No. M2017-07: Authorizing the chief executive officer to execute a contract with Max J. Kunej Company to construct the Bel-Red contract within the East Link Extension in the amount of \$93,170,012, with a 10% contingency of \$9,317,000, for a total authorized contract amount not to exceed \$102,487,012.

Boardmember Butler stated that the Capital Committee reviewed this item at its January 2017 meeting. The action provides for construction of the Bel-Red Station and light rail guideway. The project has a duration of 48 months.

**It was moved by Boardmember Butler, seconded by Boardmember Balducci, and carried by unanimous vote that Motion No. M2017-07 be approved as presented.**

Resolution No. R2017-01: (1) Authorizing the Sumner Station Improvements project to advance through Gate 4 within the Sound Transit Phase Gate process and (2) establishing the Phase Gate Project Budget of \$17,042,135 and establishing a fiscal year 2017 Annual Project Budget of \$4,481,000.

Boardmember Butler stated that the action authorizes the Sumner Station Improvements project to proceed through Phase Gate 4 – Enter Final Design, and establishes the Phase Gate Project budget. The design-build procurement will begin in 2017, and final design is scheduled to begin in 2019.

**It was moved by Boardmember Butler, seconded by Boardmember Backus, and carried by unanimous vote that Resolution No. R2017-01 be approved as presented.**

Motion No. M2017-09: Authorizing the chief executive officer to execute the Sumner Station Agreement with the City of Sumner for an authorized agreement amount not to exceed \$2,700,000.

Boardmember Butler stated that this action executes an agreement with the City of Sumner for the Traffic Avenue/SR 410 interchange improvements project. The agreement will contribute up to \$150,000 for preliminary engineering and environmental analysis for the project and \$2.55 million for pedestrian and lighting improvements at the station. Staff will return to the Board to consider funding of the second phase following completion of the environmental review. The City of Sumner will be the lead agency for the project.

**It was moved by Boardmember Butler, seconded by Boardmember Backus, and carried by unanimous vote that Motion No. M2017-09 be approved as presented.**

Resolution No. R2017-02: Selecting the route, profile, and stations for the Federal Way Link Extension.

**Resolution No. R2017-02 was moved by Boardmember Butler and seconded by Boardmember Upthegrove.**

Boardmember Butler stated that the Capital Committee reviewed this item at the January meeting. The Final Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) is complete and the action before the Board is to select the project to build and operate.

The committee reviewed the refinements to the Preferred Alternative, the Final EIS, and public comment. Since discussions were still ongoing between Sound Transit and the Federal Way School District, the Capital Committee voted to forward the action to the Board without making a decision on the project to be built. Boardmember Butler asked staff to make a presentation.

Don Billen, Capital Project Development Director, and Cathal Ridge, Light Rail Development Manager, briefed the Board on the action. In July 2015, the Board identified the Preferred Alternative for the Federal Way Link Extension and directed staff to conduct a series of stakeholder workshops. This was completed and a consensus was reached with the stakeholders on aspects of the project related to transit-oriented development and station access improvements.

In the South 272nd Street and South 317th Street locations, the preferred alternative identified trench options. It was noted that there were groundwater concerns with the trenches. Additional work was completed, which indicated the groundwater concerns were not as significant as originally thought, but do still exist. Due to these concerns, staff looked at elevated options; both the trench and elevated options are presented in the Final EIS. The elevated option at South 272nd Street would impact the ballfield at Mark Twain Elementary School, be more visible, require additional vegetation removal, cost less, and have less traffic disruption. The elevated option at South 317th Street would be more visible, cost less, and have less traffic disruption.

Staff and local jurisdictions have worked together to develop an understanding related to permitting on the project. The work has advanced and term sheets have been developed that indicate the local jurisdictions' support for the project and commitments to work with Sound Transit on permitting.

Vice Chair Strickland asked about adequate labor force to do this work. Mr. Billen responded that staff has met with colleagues around the country to discuss this issue. Staff has scheduled sessions with partners from both the engineering and contractor communities to discuss further. Mr. Rogoff added that Sound Transit is proud of its record for building apprenticeships. Staff is carefully monitoring the labor workforce and will bring additional information to the Board as it develops.

Mr. Rogoff spoke to the Federal Way School District's concerns about an elevated alignment adjacent to the Mark Twain Elementary School. During discussions with the School District, it was pointed out that the school is 50 years old, has more students than optimal, and the School District is considering placing a bond measure on the ballot in 2018 for construction funding. The Redondo park-and-ride lot, which is nearby and underutilized, may be a desirable location to build a replacement school. The School District is interested in possibly acquiring the park-and-ride lot and transferring the existing school property to Sound Transit or King County Metro. Sound Transit, the Federal Way School District, and King County Metro have entered into a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) that commits all three parties to work together to explore how to make this property transfer happen.

Chair Somers invited Dr. Tammy Campbell, Federal Way Superintendent, and Geoff McAnallo, School Board President, to speak to the Board.

Dr. Campbell commented that she looks forward to the arrival of light rail to Federal Way and the positive impact it will have for the community. The School District has been involved in conversations with Sound Transit staff to explore alignment options since the early stages of the project. Both the I-5 and SR 99 alignment options directly impact students and the school. Dr. Campbell stated that it is in the School District's and the community's best interests to relocate Mark Twain Elementary as a direct result of the construction of the proposed elevated rail across the school property. She asked for the Board's commitment to ensure Sound Transit will support the relocation of the Mark Twain Elementary school.

Mr. McAnallo thanked Sound Transit, King County Metro, and the School District for coming together in the last two weeks to work expeditiously to get to the MOA approval.

Boardmember Constantine offered an amendment to Resolution No. R2017-02 to fill in the two blanks in paragraph B related to South 272nd Street with "elevated."

**It was moved by Boardmember Constantine, seconded by Boardmember Moss, and carried by the unanimous vote of all Boardmembers present that Resolution No. R2017-02 paragraph B be amended to fill in the two blanks with "elevated."**

Boardmember von Reichbauer offered an amendment to Resolution No. R2017-02 to fill in the blank in paragraph C related to South 272nd Street with "elevated."

**It was moved by Boardmember von Reichbauer, seconded by Boardmember Moss, and carried by the unanimous vote of all Boardmembers present that Resolution No. R2017-02 paragraph C be amended to fill in the blank with "elevated."**

**The motion to approve Resolution No. R2017-02 as amended carried by a unanimous vote of all 17 Boardmembers present.**

Motion No. M2017-11: Authorizing the chief executive officer to execute a power purchase agreement with Puget Sound Energy for the Green Direct program to purchase locally produced, renewable wind power directly from Puget Sound Energy starting in 2019 with a 10-year fixed-rate for all Puget Sound Energy electricity accounts related to the operations of Link light rail.

Amy Shatzkin, sustainability Manager, presented the staff report. The action would allow Sound Transit to participate in Puget Sound Energy's (PSE) new Green Direct program. The Green Direct program is a power purchase agreement that allows Sound Transit to purchase locally produced renewable wind power directly from PSE over a 10-year contract.

Through this agreement, Sound Transit will support the creation of local clean energy jobs. The Green Direct wind power project will represent the largest renewable energy installation built in Western Washington. This action is consistent with the agency's greenhouse gas emissions (GHG) reduction mandate, which directed the agency to integrate sustainability across all aspects of agency business and directed GHG emissions and pollution reduction to be a programmatic focus.

**It was moved by Boardmember Roberts, seconded by Boardmember Johnson, and carried by unanimous vote that Motion No. M2017-11 be approved as presented.**

### **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

None

### **OTHER BUSINESS**

None

### **NEXT MEETING**

Board Meeting  
Friday, February 17, 2017  
1:30 to 4:00 p.m.  
Ruth Fisher Boardroom

### **ADJOURN**

The meeting adjourned at 3:48 p.m.



Dave Somers  
Board Chair

ATTEST:



Kathryn Flores  
Board Administrator

APPROVED on February 17, 2017, JE