



Summary Minutes

System Expansion Committee Meeting January 9, 2020

Call to order

The meeting was called to order at 1:37 p.m. by Committee Chair, Claudia Balducci, in the Ruth Fisher Boardroom, 401 South Jackson Street, Seattle, Washington.

Roll call of members

Chair	Vice Chair
(P) Claudia Balducci, King County Councilmember	(A) Victoria Woodards, Tacoma Mayor

Board Members	
(P) Nancy Backus, Auburn Mayor	(A) Kent Keel, University Place Mayor
(P) David Baker, Kenmore Mayor	(P) Dave Upthegrove, King County Councilmember
(P) Jenny Durkan, Seattle Mayor	

Taylor Wilkinson, Board Administrator, announced that a quorum of the System Expansion Committee was present at roll call.

Report of the Chair

Committee Chair Balducci approved Boardmember Backus's request to participate in the meeting via teleconference and welcomed Boardmember Juarez, who participated in the committee meeting as allowed under Board rules.

She also informed the Committee that she would move the NE 130th Street Infill Station briefing up on the agenda to immediately follow public comment. There were no objections to the change.

CEO Report

Chief executive officer Peter M. Rogoff provided the CEO Report.

Congratulations to Chair Balducci

Mr. Rogoff congratulated Chair Balducci on her election as King County Council Chair.

Connect 2020

Connect 2020, the long planned construction project to connect East Link to the light rail system at the International District/Chinatown Station, began the weekend prior to the meeting. Construction was proceeding on schedule.

Rather than stopping service during this 10-week project, we chose to keep the system open for our 80,000 daily riders by running trains less often and having trains share tracks through the construction zone. This required a temporary transfer platform at Pioneer Square, which was successfully constructed prior to the 10-week period.

Sound Transit was not able to test this service level with real crowds under real conditions. So, much was learned between the beginning of the project and the meeting. It was estimated that trains would arrive every 12 minutes instead of the usual 6 minutes during peak hours, but after a week of service, the reality on the ground showed trains consistently arriving every 13 to 15 minutes. Riders were subsequently informed to plan for these slightly longer waits.

Trains took roughly one minute longer than estimated in each direction between Pioneer Square and SODO where they switched to single tracking. Since trains had to meet at Pioneer Square, a slower trip anywhere on the line meant that all trips have to slow accordingly. Otherwise, according to the ongoing daily reports from Operations, Construction, Security, Safety, Communications staff and Project Partners from the on-the-ground ambassador effort, Connect 2020 was going well.

The most important reports, came from customers. The agency was tracking rider reaction on social media, where the tone was positive to neutral. Responses to concerns and complaints was quick. The ambassador effort was been nimble, and the Ambassador Team quickly reassigned ambassadors to where they were most useful to customers.

Bicycles were restricted through Pioneer Square during Connect 2020, and new electronic bike lockers installed at Rainier Beach, SODO and UW were being well-utilized. There were 150 total rentals so far with bikes parked at the lockers for almost 500 hours. UW Station received the most usage.

Mr. Rogoff thanked the public for their patience during this necessary phase of construction.

Chair Balducci shared comments she received regarding Connect 2020 and how well the project was planned, in the face of the alternative option of a complete service disruption. Mr. Rogoff acknowledged those comments and many others received regarding station announcements and bicycle procedures during Connect 2020. He assured the committee that the agency was focused on constantly improving communication with the public.

Disadvantaged Business Enterprise Waiver

In 2016 the agency re-submitted a request to the US Department of Transportation for a waiver for having to consider non-minority women contractors as disadvantaged business enterprises. The issue was raised by people of color who owned trucking firms and were losing work and the agency's disparity study showed no disparity for non-minority women-owned businesses. The waiver was granted at the end of 2019 based upon that disparity study, and Sound Transit was underway on a new disparity study.

Introduction of New Deputy CEO Mary Cummings.

Mr. Rogoff introduced Mary Cummings, the new Deputy Chief Executive Officer. Ms. Cummings came to Sound Transit from Pennsylvania where she had a long and distinguished career in higher education. She also worked in the Information Technology field in Europe and elsewhere.

Boardmember Upthegrove arrived at this time.

Public comment

Dan Strauss, Seattle City Councilmember
Alex Tsimerman
Renee Staten
Laura Loe Bernstein
Andrew Sang
Frank Shields
Jan Peterson

Sean Beavers
Andrew Grant Houston
Brian Robinson
Ed Irwin
Katherine Cortes
Mark Hammerlund
Brad Rodgers

Reports to the Committee

Chair Balducci reminded the committee that the presentation on the NE 130th Street Infill Station would come before the business items.

NE 130th Street Infill Station Update

Kamuron Gurol, High Capacity Transit North Corridor Development Director, John Sleavin, Executive Technical Advisor, and Stephanie Ball, Finance Manager, gave the presentation. Mr. Gurol provided a brief overview of the NE 130th Street Infill project, reminding the Committee that project was approved in the ST3 Plan and slated to begin in 2024 for an opening in 2031.

He reviewed the results of the preliminary engineering approved in 2018, the increased cost estimates, and the three options developed for future committee and Board consideration. The options for consideration were to return to the original ST3 plan, to advance incrementally, or to advance fully with the construction in coordination with the Lynwood Link Extension, for opening in approximately 2025.

Boardmembers asked whether advancing incrementally or advancing fully would have impacts on other ST3 projects or the agency's general financial capacity. Ms. Ball informed the Committee that the agency's debt capacity would be reduced, but all projects would still be affordable. Boardmember Upthegrove asked what benefits the advance incrementally would provide over the other two options. Don Billen, Executive Director of Planning, Environment and project Development, informed the committee that it would provide more information with which to make a decision in 2021. Chair Balducci asked staff to bring more context regarding the three options' impact on the agency's debt capacity to the committee's February meeting.

Boardmember Balducci called for a two minute recess at 3:00pm

The Committee was called back to order at 3:02pm.

Business items

For Recommendation to the Board

Motion No. M2020-01: Authorizing the chief executive officer to increase certain Northgate Link Extension contract contingencies as necessary using contingency funds available within the Northgate Link Extension Baseline budget, for a total authorized cumulative contingency increase not to exceed \$18,000,000 or 5% of the current authorized contract amount for any individual contract.

Don Davis, Executive Project Director for North Link, provided an update on the Northgate Link Extension and presented the staff report for the motion.

It was moved by Boardmember Upthegrove, seconded by Boardmember Baker, and carried by unanimous vote that Motion No. M2020-01 be forwarded to the Board with a do pass recommendation.

Motion No. M2020-02: Authorizing the chief executive officer to execute a Funding and Cooperative Agreement with the City of Seattle to contribute funding for Northgate pedestrian and bicycle access improvements, which includes credits for Northgate Link Extension commitments that are in the baselined project budget, for a total amount not to exceed \$7,336,359.

Kristin Hoffman, Senior Project Manager, provided the staff report for the motion.

It was moved by Boardmember Baker, seconded by Boardmember Upthegrove, and carried by unanimous vote that Motion No. M2020-02 be forwarded to the Board with a do pass recommendation.

For Committee final action

December 12, 2019, System Expansion Committee minutes

It was moved by Boardmember Baker, seconded by Boardmember Upthegrove and carried by unanimous vote that the minutes of the December 12, 2019, System Expansion Committee Meeting be approved as presented.

For Recommendation to the Board

Motion No. M2020-03: Authorizing the chief executive officer to execute a Partnering Agreement with the City of Lake Forest Park for the SR 522/NE 145th Bus Rapid Transit project.

Paul Cornish, Project Director for High Capacity Transit Development, provided the staff report for the motion.

It was moved by Boardmember Upthegrove, seconded by Boardmember Baker, and carried by unanimous vote that Motion No. M2020-03 be forwarded to the Board with a do pass recommendation.

Reports to the committee

Sounder South Strategic Development & Implementation Plan Briefing

CEO Rogoff introduced the briefing along with the project team, Consisting of Melissa Saxe Flores, High Capacity Transit Project Development Director, Chelsea Levy, South Corridor Development Director, and Isaac Greenfelder, Corridor Operations Director. The project team provided the briefing. The team reviewed the findings of its technical analysis and public outreach, and provided an overview of its draft strategic plan.

Executive session

None.

Other business

None.

Next meeting

Thursday, February 13, 2020
1:30 to 4:00 p.m.
Ruth Fisher Boardroom

Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 4:04 p.m.



Claudia Balducci
System Expansion Committee Chair

ATTEST:



Kathryn Flores
Board Administrator

APPROVED on April 9, 2020, AM