



Summary Minutes

System Expansion Committee Meeting September 10, 2020

Call to order

The meeting was called to order at 1:37 p.m. by Committee Chair, Claudia Balducci virtually on WebEx.

Roll call of members

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

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

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

Report of the Chair

Monthly Contract Report – Chair Balducci announced that the Monthly Contract Report is available for review. The report includes contracts within the CEO’s authority including competitive, proprietary or sole source contracts.

CEO Report

Chief Executive Officer Peter M. Rogoff provided the CEO Report.

Lynnwood Link and Northgate Link Extension connections – During the early hours of the morning last Thursday, light rail construction teams connected the Lynnwood Link Extension project to the Northgate Link Extension project, installing the tub girders at the southernmost and northernmost segments of each project respectively. The two projects are now joined. Many thanks to our great teams for following COVID safety protocols, working in the middle of the night to complete this exciting milestone on our northern expansion.

Public comment

Committee Chair Balducci noted that due to the Governor’s order the Board is only accepting public comment via email.

Dennis Noland
Bob Ortblad
Kathleen Barry Johnson

Business items

For Committee Final Action

Minutes: August 13, 2020 System Expansion Committee meeting

It was moved by Boardmember Backus, seconded by Boardmember Smith and carried by unanimous vote that the minutes of the August 13, 2020 System Expansion Committee meeting be approved as presented.

Motion No. M2020-53: Authorizing the chief executive officer to execute a contract modification with Acoustics Strategies, Inc. dba ATS Consulting to exercise three consecutive one-year extension options to provide a track condition and wayside noise diagnostic system and database for the Noise and Vibration Program in the amount of \$2,235,000, for a new total authorized contract amount not to exceed \$4,043,208.

Ron Lewis, Executive Director of Design, Engineering, and Construction Management, and Shankar Rajaram, Manager of Rail Vehicle Engineering, provided the staff report.

It was moved by Boardmember Backus, seconded by Boardmember Baker

Motion No. M2020-53 was moved by Boardmember Backus and seconded by Boardmember Baker. Chair Balducci called for a roll call vote.

Ayes

Nancy Backus
David Baker
Kent Keel
Nicola Smith
Dave Upthegrove
Claudia Balducci

Nays

It was carried by unanimous vote of the six Boardmembers present that Motion No. M2020-53 be approved as presented.

For Recommendation to the Board

Motion No. M2020-54: Authorizing the chief executive officer to increase the contract contingency for the Federal Way Link Extension design-build contract with Kiewit Infrastructure West Company in order to incorporate Alternate Technical Concepts and Notices to Designers through cost-effective measures that reduce construction risk, enhance operational safety, and/or improve passenger experience in the amount of \$100,000,000 for a new total authorized contract amount not to exceed \$1,513,720,000.

Joe Gildner, Acting Executive Director of the Federal Way link Extension, Ron Lewis, Executive Director of Design Engineering and Construction Management, provided the staff presentation and responded to Boardmember questions.

Motion No. M2020-54 was moved by Boardmember Baker and seconded by Boardmember Backus. Chair Balducci called for a roll call vote.

Ayes

Nancy Backus
David Baker
Kent Keel
Nicola Smith
Dave Upthegrove
Claudia Balducci

Nays

It was carried by unanimous vote of the six Boardmembers present that Motion No. M2020-54 be forwarded to the Board with a do-pass recommendation.

Reports to the committeein

Realignment – Near term actions

Don Billen, Executive Director of Planning, Environment and Project Management, and Karen Kitsis, Deputy Executive Director of Capital Project Development, provided the report. Mr. Billen began by reviewing the path forward and explaining the context and basis for the recommendations the staff were making.

Ms. Kitsis reviewed the active or planned-to-be-active Sounder Projects, in addition to those with actions paused. Of those, two actions recommended for advancement in the fall.

Two categories of projects were recommended to be deferred into 2021, Parking and Access Improvement projects and platform extension projects. The parking and access improvement projects were recommended for deferral due to uncertainty with the return to Sounder ridership levels. Platform extension projects and the Sounder Maintenance Base were recommended for deferral for the same reason. Deferral would allow for more information to be gathered and for the economic situation to become clearer.

Boardmember Keel highlighted that most of the deferred project recommendations were in Pierce and South King County. He expressed concern with that fact, as Pierce County did not have as much service as King County, but as a Pierce County group, the reasons for deferral were satisfactory and supported.

Chair Balducci explained that prior to the COVID-19 capital action pause, an action was approved for a joint car procurement. The procurement would allow for extended ridership support in the relatively near-term. She referred to comments made by Boardmember Millar at the earlier Executive Committee meeting regarding parking structures, and recommended taking guidance from the parking and access policies approved when ST3 was passed.

Boardmember Backus acknowledged Boardmember Millar's past comments, but noted that South King County was in a situation in which parking structures were necessary. They were the South King County contingency's highest priority.

Boardmember Uptegrove cautioned the Board of changing policies after plans had been approved.

Ms. Kitsis reviewed the three major components of Bus Rapid Transit projects, all of which had actions paused. Staff is recommending advancing preliminary engineering work for the I-405 North and South projects. The SR 522 project action would approve a general engineering consultant. Both projects could benefit from review of scope, phasing, contracting options, and partner capacity.

The actions which were not recommended for advancement include the Bus Base North and the NE 85th Interchange Street Agreement.

Chair Balducci explained that the state legislature was looking to Sound Transit for direction on I-405 projects to determine whether additional funding would be provided to WSDOT. She asked if there was a way to negotiate a funding agreement which could create positive momentum for the project. Mr. Rogoff advised that according to Boardmember Millar, factors other than just state legislative action were at play to determine funding, like federal funding, the status of I-976 in the Supreme Court, and the status of the pandemic and recession.

Ms. Kitsis reviewed the Link actions paused earlier in the year – Everett Link and OMF North. Both projects have actions that were recommended for advancement. Everett Link's action would begin a long planning process, and the OMF North served many modes and services.

Ms. Kitsis finally reviewed smaller projects and third party agreements which all had actions paused. Actions were recommended to advance the Everett Parking Agreement and the Madison BRT project. Projects recommended for deferral were the North Sammamish Park and Ride, because of site uncertainty, and the Bus on Shoulder and Rapid Ride C/D Agreement.

Boardmember Durkan arrived at this time and voiced support for the Madison Bus Rapid Transit project advancement, and urged quick action.

Chair Balducci advocated for moving all actions forward so long as they did not unduly burden the Board with a negative position when making full realignment decisions in 2021.

Mr. Billen reviewed all projects recommended for advancement and noted that they would represent one percent of the total costs of the projects. He advised that despite advancement, a project could be delayed in the future. Any funds spent on an action that was ultimately delayed would still advance it toward readiness.

Boardmember Baker asked when projects which would be paused due to decisions in the larger realignment discussion would be reactivated. Chair Balducci explained that generally, unexpected and unpredictable funding or funds would historically allow the Board to decide to advance projects, but it was impossible to predict at this time.

Capital Program Performance Overview

Chair Balducci informed the Committee that due to the time constraints on the agenda, this report would be rescheduled to a future meeting.

Operations and Maintenance Facility East Project Update

Tracy Reed, Deputy Executive Director of Project Management New & Existing Facilities, began with an overview of the Operations and Maintenance Facility East project's specifications and services. She reviewed the project's financial status and its workforce utilization. All workforce utilization goals were met with the one exception of gender, which was a program-wide challenge.

The project was 90 percent complete. Startup and light rail vehicle deliveries were imminent and preparations for East Link support would begin afterward. Remaining work included dynamic testing with light rail vehicles, asset management activities, and staffing.

She provided a virtual tour of the facility, showing progress in the yard and the two buildings, noting that the design builder was fully furnishing the buildings. Both buildings were seeking LEED Certification, and were environmentally designed.

The Operations and Maintenance Facility - East would begin to accept series 1 light rail vehicles in 2021 as more series 2 vehicles were delivered at the Seattle Operations and Maintenance Facility. Ms. Reed reviewed existing risks and challenges and next steps.

Boardmember Balducci asked about the status of the transit oriented development property next to the Operations and Maintenance Facility East. Mr. Billen advised that they were still evaluating the proposals and more information would be provided in the future

Executive session

None.

Other business

None.

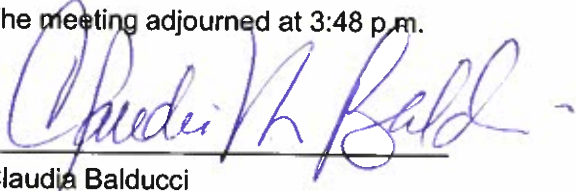
Next meeting

Thursday, October 8, 2020
1:30 to 4:00 p.m.
WebEx Event

Committee Chair Balducci noted that if the committee is not able to have an in-person meeting, a virtual meeting will be held. Information will be provided on the Sound Transit website.

Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 3:48 p.m.



Claudia Balducci
System Expansion Committee Chair

ATTEST:



Kathryn Flores
Board Administrator

APPROVED on October 8, 2020, TW