



## Summary Minutes

### System Expansion Committee Meeting November 12, 2020

#### Call to order

The meeting was called to order at 1:31 p.m. by Committee Chair, Claudia Balducci virtually on WebEx.

#### Roll call of members

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

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

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

#### Report of the Chair

Budget review at System Expansion in November and December – Chair Balducci reported that the System Expansion Committee would receive a presentation on the draft 2021 System Expansion Budget and then forward the full budget to the Board of Directors for approval at its December 17th meeting.

#### CEO Report

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

Program realignment near-term actions - The Board will consider the last of the near-term actions identified by the Board in September. The actions at the November System Expansion Committee and Board Meetings, include starting the alternative analysis for South Tacoma and Lakewood Sounder access projects, considering a General Engineering consult for BRT to help look at phasing options and a third party funding agreement for improvements along the RapidRide C corridor. These actions are the last to be considered from the Board's action in September. In 2021, Sound Transit staff anticipates bringing other standard actions as well as more considerations of actions to help projects maintain a shovel ready status ahead of realignment.

FTA Transit Construction Workshop – In October, the FTA hosted its annual FTA Transit Construction Workshop. This year's Workshop was held virtually with over two hundred participants for all of FTA's ten regions. CEO Rogoff reminded the Committee members that in 2019 the agency co-hosted this Workshop with FTA providing firsthand accounts and jobsite visits of our ongoing light rail construction. This year several staff participated and provided updates on our \$15 billion expansion program for both the STRIDE BRT and LINK Light Rail extensions.

## Public comment

Committee Chair Balducci noted that due to the Governor's order the Board is only accepting public comment via email. Board members received comments submitted by the following individuals before the meeting by email.

Bill Hirt  
Ravenna-Bryant Community Association Board  
The Youngstown, Avalon, and East Alaska Junction Neighborhood Coalitions  
Joe Kunzler

## Business items

### For Committee Final Action

Minutes: October 8, 2020 System Expansion Committee meeting

**It was moved by Boardmember Backus, seconded by Boardmember Woodards. Chair Balducci called for a roll call vote.**

#### Ayes

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

#### Nays

**It was carried by unanimous vote of the seven Boardmembers present that the October 8, 2020 be approved as presented.**

Motion No. M2020-67: Authorizing the chief executive officer to execute a five-year contract with three one-year options to extend with Jacobs Project Management Co. to provide on-call general engineering consultant services for the Stride Bus Rapid Transit program for an initial total authorized contract amount not to exceed \$2,000,000.

Mark Johnson, Bus Rapid Transit & Sounder Line Project Director, provided the staff report and presentation and responded to Boardmember questions.

Chair Balducci asked what would the contractor have been doing if the contract wasn't paused and in its full original scope. Mr. Johnson advised that the GEC would be onboard already and participating in larger planning.

**Motion No. M2020-67 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  
Victoria Woodards  
Claudia Balducci

#### Nays

**It was carried by unanimous vote of the seven Boardmembers present that Motion No. M2020-67 be approved as presented.**

Motion No. M2020-68: Authorizing the Chief Executive Officer to execute contract modifications with David Evans and Associates Inc. for Phase 1 Alternatives Analysis for the Lakewood Station Access Improvements project and the South Tacoma Access Improvements project in an amount of \$1,448,853 with a 10 percent contingency of \$144,885 totaling \$1,593,738, for a new total authorized contract amount not to exceed \$3,312,627, contingent upon Board approval of Resolution No. R2020-19 and Resolution No. R2020-20.

Melissa Saxe, High Capacity Transit Project Director, and Zac Eskanazi, High Capacity Transit Development Manager gave the staff report for Motion No. M2020-68, Resolution No. R2020-19 and Resolution No. R2020-20.

Boardmember Woodards spoke in favor of the motion and asked for support from her fellow Committee members.

**Motion No. M2020-68 was moved by Boardmember Woodards and seconded by Boardmember Keel. Chair Balducci called for a roll call vote.**

**Ayes**

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

**Nays**

**It was carried by unanimous vote of the seven Boardmembers present that Motion No. M2020-68 be approved as presented.**

**For Recommendation to the Board**

Resolution No. R2020-19: Amending the Lakewood Station Access Improvements project budget for the administration, preliminary engineering, and right of way activities to support the completion of alternatives analysis by increasing the authorized project allocation by \$705,000 from \$1,255,000 to \$1,960,000.

**Resolution No. R2020-19 was moved by Boardmember Woodards and seconded by Boardmember Keel. Chair Balducci called for a roll call vote.**

**Ayes**

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

**Nays**

**It was carried by unanimous vote of the seven Boardmembers present that Resolution No. R2020-19 be forwarded to the Board with a do-pass recommendation.**

Resolution No. R2020-20: Amending the Adopted 2020 Budget to create the South Tacoma Access Improvements project by (a) establishing an authorized project allocation in the amount of \$1,534,000 and (b) establishing a 2020 annual project budget of \$189,000.

**Resolution No. R2020-20 was moved by Boardmember Woodards and seconded by**

**Boardmember Keel. Chair Balducci called for a roll call vote.**

**Ayes**

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

**Nays**

**It was carried by unanimous vote of the seven Boardmembers present that Resolution No. R2020-20 be forwarded to the Board with a do-pass recommendation.**

Chair Balducci reordered the agenda items to allow Boardmember Durkan can be available for the Motion No. M2020-69.

Resolution No. R2020-21: Amending the Adopted 2020 Budget for the Bus Base North project to support a property acquisition by (a) increasing the 2020 annual budget from \$1,530,000 to \$16,530,000 and (b) transferring \$12,600,000 from the Construction Services phase to the Right of Way phase while maintaining the authorized project allocation of \$48,676,000.

**Resolution No. R2020-21 was moved by Boardmember Backer and seconded by Boardmember Woodards. Chair Balducci called for a roll call vote.**

Bernard van de Kamp, Director of High Capacity Transit Corridor Development, provided the staff report and presentation.

(Boardmember Durkan arrived at this time).

Chair Balducci asked whether the project was facing a budgetary problem. CEO Rogoff explained that across the I-405 BRT program, budgetary estimates were in fluctuation in both directions. Property costs increases were not slowing.

**Ayes**

Nancy Backus  
David Baker  
Kent Keel  
Jenny Durkan  
Nicola Smith  
Dave Upthegrove  
Victoria Woodards  
Claudia Balducci

**Nays**

**It was carried by unanimous vote of the eight Boardmembers present that Resolution No. R2020-21 be forwarded to the Board with a do-pass recommendation.**

Motion No. M2020-69: Authorizing the chief executive officer to execute an agreement with the City of Seattle and King County to reimburse the City of Seattle for \$1,730,000 and King County Metro for \$2,800,000 to provide a total funding contribution of \$4,530,000 for bus speed and reliability improvements to the RapidRide C Line serving West Seattle to South Lake Union.

Chris Rule, High Capacity Transit Project Manager, provided the staff report and presentation.

Chair Balducci asked why Sound Transit was involved in Metro projects. Mr. Rule responded that the projects were early deliverables in the ST3 plan, designed to assist the city of Seattle due to the later delivery of the West Seattle and Ballard Link Extensions.

**Motion No. M2020-69 was moved by Boardmember Durkan and seconded by Boardmember Backus. Chair Balducci called for a roll call vote.**

Boardmember Durkan voiced support for the motion, noting its importance with the failure of the West Seattle Bridge.

**Ayes**

Nancy Backus  
David Baker  
Jenny Durkan  
Kent Keel  
Nicola Smith  
Dave Uptegrove  
Claudia Balducci

**Nays**

**It was carried by unanimous vote of the seven Boardmembers present that Motion No. M2020-69 be forwarded to the Board with a do-pass recommendation**

**Reports to the committee**

Preview of Committee Workplan for 2021

Chair Balducci proposed a 2021 work plan for the System Expansion Committee. She reviewed the 2020 work plan with members that was developed at the beginning of the year. The first page of the Workplan includes items of interest to the Committee in an attempt to try to include policy items. The second page includes a calendar organized by quarter with a list of all the presentations and actions the Committee received to date. Also included are the upcoming items for the November and December System Expansion Committee.

Due to COVID-19 the Committee did not receive some of the presentations that the Committee identified. Chair Balducci requested feedback from Committee members on whether they would like to continue this effort into 2021, and what types of items they would like to see added to next year's work plan.

Boardmember Durkan supported the Workplan, as a means to encourage the committee to take up topics. Boardmember Backus and Keel voiced support for the Workplan, but advised that the committee stay flexible in light of the unpredictable nature of the coming year and future Board decisions on realignment. Boardmember Woodards also voiced support of the Workplan.

Chair Balducci agreed with Boardmembers, noting that the hope would be to develop the plan in alignment with the Board's scheduled work.

Review of the proposed 2021 System Expansion project budgets

Ryan Fisher, Director of Budget and Financial Planning, provided the presentation. He reviewed the proposed sources and uses of funds, which totaled \$3.1 Billion. Of the \$2.5 Billion in 2021 projects, System Expansion comprised \$2.3 Billion.

Don Billen, Executive Director of Planning, Environment and Project Development, discussed assumptions for developing the system expansion projects. He explained that construction continued to be funded, and that funding for planning and final design would continue, although in certain cases at a slower and more measured pace.

Ron Lewis, Executive Director of Design, Engineering and Construction Management, outlined the Link projects, beginning with The Operations and Maintenance Facility East and the light rail vehicle fleet expansion. The vehicle expansion would total \$172 million, as 50 vehicles were delivered and 49 would be conditionally accepted. Northgate Link Extension would also open, following completions of systems

contracts. Mr. Lewis reviewed remaining light rail projects, including Tacoma Link, East Link, Downtown Redmond Link, Federal Way Link, and Lynwood Link Extensions, as well as the NE 130th Street Station. Keys to successful Link construction in 2021 included safe planning and execution of construction, effective management of COVID-19 impacts, and successful partnerships with the many stakeholders.

Mr. Billen reviewed projects in the planning stage. He advised that many projects which were in environmental review saw delays due to impacts of COVID-19. He outlined the status of the Tacoma Dome Link Extension and OMF South, the West Seattle to Ballard Link Extension, which would see a delayed draft EIS, The Everett Link Extension and OMF North which would be considered to be split into different delivery projects. CEO Rogoff advised that this consideration was taking place across all projects. A north Corridor Maintenance of Way facility was being developed to address any needed maintenance issues which could occur between the ship canal and Everett. This facility would be needed even after construction of the OMF North.

Mr. Lewis outlined the ongoing Sounder Station Access and Improvements projects and Mr. Billen advised that most of the South Sounder Capacity Expansion remained paused, with limited work taking place for the Auburn Parking and Access Improvements project and Edmonds and Mukilteo project.

Mr. Billen reviewed the Stride Bus Rapid Transit program, noting the necessity of Board Action that year for the I-405 Bus Rapid Transit project to be delivered on time. He also discussed other Bus System Expansion funding, which included the Pacific Avenue Bus Rapid Transit, and Rapid Ride funding in Pierce and King Counties respectively.

Mr. Fisher reviewed the timeline and next steps for the budget.

CEO Rogoff highlighted the likelihood of a budget amendment. The proposed budget was constructed very tightly expecting low ridership on the operations side. Due to the decisions to be made during the realignment discussion, the budget would likely be adjusted.

#### Light Rail Vehicle Fleet Expansion

Tracy Reed, Deputy Executive Director of Project Management, and Paul Dennison, Deputy Executive Director of Transportation & Maintenance, provided the report.

Ms. Reed explained that the Light Rail Vehicle Expansion project included 152 new light rail vehicles through 2024, which would supply the various new Link extensions opening in that timeframe. While the manufacturing was on target and the project was running on budget, commissioning was running behind, and COVID-19 affected the project timeline.

The project would take eight years, comprised of multiple interim milestones. She outlined each of the phases, beginning with design, which was complete. The new cars contained many new features. Manufacturing began in 2017, and as of the meeting, 68 new vehicles were constructed. Challenges experienced during this phase included new health and safety protocols and supply chain delays due to COVID-19.

Mr. Denison explained the process for transport and delivery of the light rail vehicles. Twenty-seven vehicles has been delivered as of the day of the meeting. Challenges occurred during this phase, including employment shortages on the part of the manufacturer. Ms. Reed explained the process for testing and commissioning of the vehicles. Testing took place across the system, including on mainline tracks during non-revenue hours. She outlined challenges experienced during testing, the most notable being potential signal interference between sub-systems. Normal operations were not impacted, but the root cause was identified, a solution to mitigate was tested and results were being validated at the time of the meeting. Safety and security certification was approximately 70 percent complete.

Conditional Acceptance was the goal for the various steps, previously outlined. It was the point at which Sound Transit would take ownership and the warranty would take over. Twenty-six new vehicles were conditionally accepted and 12 were ready for mainline service.

Ms. Reed reviewed the schedule and top risks of the project, including a COVID-19 resurgence. She proposed a return to the Committee with an evaluation of ridership demand and the need to mitigate impacts of slower than expected fleet expansion. Chair Balducci asked why the committee would discuss ridership demand in respect to the light rail vehicle project. Ms. Reed explained that ridership was part of service planning. Mr. Rogoff advised that the briefing would be a snapshot of ridership demand, and the potential pressure that a delay would put on the agency.

Boardmember Keel asked about past problems with vehicle wheels and rejection of some cars. Ms. Reed advised that three cars were rejected after they were delivered to Seattle. Mr. Denison explained that the agency would begin rail milling to create a smoother ride.

### **Executive session**

None.

### **Other business**

None.

### **Next meeting**

Thursday, December 10, 2020

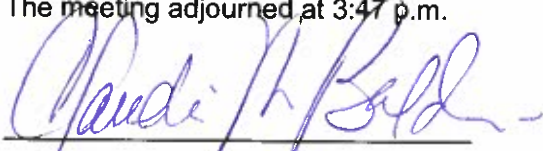
1:30 to 4:00 p.m.

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 3:47 p.m.



Claudia Balducci  
System Expansion Committee Chair

ATTEST:



Kathryn Flores  
Board Administrator

APPROVED on December 10, 2020, TW