SOUNDTRANSIT

Summary Minutes

Executive Committee Meeting
December 8, 2022

Call to order

The meeting was called to order at 10:34 a.m. by Committee Chair Kent Keel.

The meeting was available for viewing in person and streamed on:
https://soundtransit.webex.com/soundtransit/j.php?MTID=md0dc330a597ec97993080b2622bb6bf7

Roll call of members

Chair	Vice Chair
(P) Kent Keel, University Place Councilmember	(P) Dow Constantine, King County Executive (A) Dave Somers, Snohomish County Executive

Board Members	
(P) Nancy Backus, Auburn Mayor	(P) Cassie Franklin, Everett Mayor
(P) Claudia Balducci, King County Councilmember	(P) Bruce Harrell, Seattle Mayor
(A) Bruce Dammeier, Pierce County Executive	(P) Roger Millar, WSDOT Secretary

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

Report of the Chair

Monthly Contract Report

The monthly contract reports were included in members' meeting packets for review.

Mercer Island

Chair Keel acknowledged that Sound Transit announced it had reached an agreement with the City of Mercer Island to settle the current litigation related to the Mercer Island Transit Integration construction that was part of its East Link expansion project. This litigation arose in 2020 after disagreements emerged regarding the 2017 Settlement Agreement between Sound Transit and the City that had settled several years of previous disputes. By settling this current litigation, both the City and Sound Transit would avoid significant costs associated with the legal proceedings and including a trial scheduled for February 2023. Under the terms of this settlement, the City would pay Sound Transit a total of $2.1 million over two years, and current legal disputes between the City and Sound Transit would be dismissed. Chair Keel noted Sound Transit appreciated the significant time its staff, and the City staff, spent preparing for and participating in good faith negotiations to resolve this dispute.

CEO Report

CEO Julie Timm provided the CEO report.

WSBLE Open House – CEO Timm highlighted a few briefings, workshops, and other events that would occur this month and into the new year regarding engagement on the West Seattle and Ballard Link

Extensions project and studies. On December 12, 2022, the West Seattle and Ballard Link Extensions team would kick off a two part series focused on further studies in the Interbay and Ballard areas with an Open House at Lawton Elementary School in Magnolia. The Open House would provide an overview of further studies in the Interbay and Ballard areas, with a focus on studies in the Interbay area. Engagement would continue in the new year with an Interbay/Ballard Workshop scheduled for January 11, 2023. This workshop would build on the open house information for further studies in Interbay and provide additional information on further studies in Ballard. On December 14, 2022, Sound Transit would host its third Chinatown/International district (CID) Workshop at Union Station to continue the conversation on further studies in the CID segment and focus in on key issues and problem solving.

Construction Updates Presentation

CEO Timm noted Sound Transit staff would provide an update at the System Expansion Committee meeting later this day, on ongoing construction for East Link, Lynnwood, Downtown Redmond, and Federal Way Link extensions and the results of the programmatic assessment and what that indicates for project openings. She encouraged the committee to listen and attend the meeting but also informed them the presentation would be presented at the December 2022 Board meeting.

Sustainability Award

CEO Timm shared that the Downtown Redmond Link Extension earned the Envision Platinum Award for Sustainable Infrastructure.

Chair Keel thanked staff for providing clarity on the realignment schedule and reminded the committee to consider continuous delays causing tax payer losses.

Public comment

Chair Keel announced that public comment would be accepted via email to meetingcomments@soundtransit.org and would also be accepted in-person and virtually.

The following people provided written public comment:

Joe Kunzler

The following people provided in-person public comment:

Alex Tsimerman

The following people provided virtual public comments:

Alexa Bailey
Joe Kunzler

Business items

Items for Final Committee Action

November 3, 2022, Executive Committee meeting minutes

It was moved by Boardmember Backus, seconded by Boardmember Balducci, and carried by consent of all Board members present that the minutes of the November 3, 2022 Executive Committee meeting be approved as presented.

Motion No. M2022-92: Recommending that the portions of the Proposed 2023 Budget and Transit Improvement Plan reviewed by the Executive Committee be forwarded by the Finance and Audit Committee to the Board with a do-pass recommendation.

Ryan Fisher, Deputy Executive Director of Financial Planning and Budget, provided the presentation.

Motion No. M2022-92 was moved by Boardmember Backus and seconded by Boardmember Balducci.

Chair Keel called for a roll call vote.

Ayes	Nays
Nancy Backus	
Claudia Balducci	
Dow Constantine	
Cassie Franklin	
Bruce Harrell	
Roger Millar	
Kent Keel	

It was carried by unanimous vote of seven committee members present that Motion No. M2022-92 be approved as presented.

Presentation on the Sustainability Strategic Plan

Amy Shatzkin, Director of Sustainability, and Jamie Brinkley, Manager of Sustainability, provided the presentation. At Sound Transit, sustainability was about improving the quality of life in the Central Puget Sound. Sustainability was about what the agency does, because taking transit was inherently sustainable, and about how work was accomplished daily. Sustainability remained a priority under current leadership.

Sustainability efforts were underpinned by key priorities of people, planet, and prosperity. Transit was about building a better future by making a cleaner environment and fostering a healthy community and economy. People, planet, and prosperity were also the priorities to organize the agency's Sustainability Plan. Ms. Shatzkin noted that her presentation and program materials would reference six long-term goals from addressing social equity to achieving carbon free operations and maximizing operational efficiency.

The agency sustainability plan was framed by long-term goals and implemented through 45 short-term goals, which were intended to be completed by 2024. These goals were accomplished through the annual sustainability targets, which comprised the annual work plan. Implementing the sustainability plan was more than halfway complete and there were two years left to accomplish the short-term goals that were set. 40 percent of short-term goals were completed and staff was confident a vast majority would be completed by year end 2024.

Sound Transit's work on equitable community building in 2022 included development of an implementation plan for racial equity toolkit and the equitable engagement tool. To promote sustainable championship in the hybrid work environment, staff also established an online educational networking and educational forum for staff to share sustainability best practices.

Ms. Shatzkin shared that the goal of achieving carbon free operations was accelerating in progress. A high-level roadmap for meeting 2050 goals was already complete in addition to planning the 522 BRT project to include a fully electric bus fleet and subsidizing the cost of the bus and infrastructure investments with a $9.3 million grant from the FTA Low/No grant program. Staff was looking beyond the bus rapid transit (BRT) program to plan zero emissions transition plans for all bus fleets and collaborated with agency regional partners to identify collaboration opportunities in the area. Lastly, the agency participated in the state's clean fuel standard program, which would launch in 2023, and provided a transformational opportunity to accelerate the implementation of zero emissions planning.

In terms of work to build resilience across capital expansion projects, staff was notified in the last month that the Downtown Redmond Link Extension (DRLE) project received the highest certification possible from the Envision green infrastructure rating system. Envision awards projects for going above and beyond to deliver improvements to the social, economic, and environmental conditions of its community. The DRLE project was the first transit project in the Pacific Northwest to be certified by ISI, and only the ninth Envision Platinum-rated transportation project in the nation. The agency was also underway with implementing the Efficiency and Sustainability Program to fund research and pilot projects focused on resource conservation and sustainability innovation. Since early 2021, the agency had implemented seven projects from lighting upgrades to assessing energy reduction and storage opportunities on Link light rail.

The agency continued to receive national and international recognition for sustainability efforts. The Environmental and Sustainability Management System maintained certification to the ISO 14001 standard, which was a third-party certification that had the agency show continual improvement in the delivery of regulatory and voluntary environmental programs. The agency also retained Platinum level recognition for the American Public Transportation Association's (APTA) Sustainability Commitment. Ms. Shatzkin serves as chair of the APTA Sustainability Committee. The agency also received recognition for LEED certified transit stations and Envision certified corridor projects.

The agency continued to strive for improvement in addressing priorities of delivery a cost-effective Sustainability Program for capital projects, continuing to advance sustainable infrastructure strategies, accelerating work towards achieving carbon free operations, and engaging with state and federal partners to participate in climate change and infrastructure policy implementation.

Chair Keel congratulated staff and the agency for the Envision Award.

Motion No. M2022-93: Authorizing the chief executive officer to execute a five-year contract with Cascadia Consulting Group to provide on-call sustainability consulting services to Sound Transit for a total authorized contract amount not to exceed $3,428,688.

Jamie Brinkley, Manager of Sustainability, provided the staff report.

Motion No. M2022-93 was moved by Boardmember Backus and seconded by Boardmember Balducci.

Chair Keel asked for an example of an emergency task order. Ms. Brinkley replied that most task orders were anticipated weeks or months in advanced. On rare occasion, there could be request for information that required additional research support.

Chair Keel called for a roll call vote.

Ayes	Nays
Nancy Backus	
Claudia Balducci	
Dow Constantine	
Cassie Franklin	
Bruce Harrell	
Roger Millar	
Kent Keel	

It was carried by unanimous vote of seven committee members present that Motion No. M2022-93 be approved as presented.

Items for Recommendation to the Board

Nominations for Sound Transit Board Officers for Board consideration in December 2022

Chair Keel explained that the Board's Rules and Operating Procedures called for the Executive Committee to meet and develop nominations for the Board Chair and the two Vice Chairs before the current terms expire. The Committee's recommendations would then be brought as nominations to the Board in December. Board officers would be selected by majority vote of all members of the Board and terms were for two years. The Chair and Vice Chairs must be from a different county.

Chair Keel nominated Boardmember Dow Constantine as Sound Transit Board Chair.

He also asked that the Board consider committee leadership that represents all three counties in the region. Chair Keel explained that with the Chair nomination being from King County, the nominees for the Vice Chair positions must be from Snohomish and Pierce Counties.

Committee Vice Chair Constantine nominated Dave Somers as the Board Vice Chair from Snohomish County.

Boardmember Dammeier stated his agreement with the nomination.

Committee Vice Chair Constantine nominated Boardmember Kent Keel as the Board Vice Chair from Pierce County.

Chair Keel noted that at the December 2022 Board meeting, Secretary Millar would preside over the election portion of the Board meeting. Each position would be considered individually.

Motion No. M2022-94: Adopting the Sound Transit 2023 State Legislative Program and directing staff to evaluate and engage in issues that impact the agency as it continues to implement a regional high-capacity transit system.

Alex Soldano, Director of State Relations, provided the staff report.

Motion No. M2022-94 was moved by Boardmember Backus and seconded by Boardmember Balducci.

Boardmember Balducci asked for staff to provide insight into what may be expected. Mr. Soldano prefaced that the legislatures approach in the upcoming session was relatively quiet regarding transportation and the legislative agenda included programming the money that was included in the 2022 transportation package. There were a number of policy issues and cleanups that need to be made from that, as well as programming climate commitment act money. There would be slight focus on policy issues but it seemed that a lot of the decks were cleared in the last legislative session. Mr. Soldano anticipated there to be considerable work on affordable housing.

Boardmember Balducci noted the 80/80/80 bill that had launched thousands of units of affordable housing around transit and would hope that the agency would be open to the idea to get jurisdictions thinking about how to maximize transit-oriented development around those station areas in a way that makes sense that honors the individual circumstances around each of the stations and increase progress.

Chair Keel expanded on why housing would be a topic to focus on going forward.

Boardmember Millar noted that as a member of the Executive branch of state government it would be inappropriate to vote therefore, he would abstain.

Chair Keel asked about the historical stance on funding. Mr. Soldano explained the changes in this legislative agenda, as opposed to last year's legislative agenda, reflected the 2022 legislative session transportation package that was adopted. The legislature made historic investments in transportation and also in transit. It was a historically generous transportation package at the state level for transit in particular, transit operations, and development. The small changes in language reflected the approach that those investments were programmed to follow through on the promises that the legislature made.

Chair Keel called for a roll call vote.

Ayes	Nays
Nancy Backus	
Claudia Balducci	
Dow Constantine	
Cassie Franklin	
Bruce Harrell	
Kent Keel	

It was carried by majority vote of six committee members present that Motion No. M2022-94 be forwarded to the Board with a do-pass recommendation. Boardmember Millar abstained.

Reports to the Committee

Executive Session – None

Other business – None

Next meeting

Thursday, January 5, 2023
10:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.
Ruth Fisher Boardroom and Virtually via WebEx

Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 11:31 a.m.

Dow Constantine
Executive Committee Chair

ATTEST:

Kathryn Flores
Board Administrator

APPROVED on March 2, 2023, JG