SOUNDTRANSIT

Summary Minutes

Executive Committee Meeting
May 2, 2024

Call to order

The meeting was called to order at 10:30 a.m. by Committee Vice Chair Dave Somers and was available for viewing in person and online.

The meeting was recorded and can be found at https://www.soundtransit.org/get-to-know-us/board-directors/livestream-video.

Roll call of members

Chair	Vice Chair
(P) Dow Constantine, King County Executive	(P) Dave Somers, Snohomish County Executive

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

Katie Flores, Board Administrator, announced that a quorum of the Committee was present at roll call. Board member Birney attended as a non-voting member.

Report of the Chair

None.

CEO Report

Goran Sparrman, Interim CEO, provided the CEO report.

2 Line Opening

The 2 Line opened on April 27, 2024 beginning Link service on the Eastside of Lake Washington with 8 stations between South Bellevue and Redmond Technology Stations. Sound Transit partnered with more than 100 local organizations to activate the eight new stations at the opening event. Community members filled most trains to standing-room-only for much of the day with 35,000 boardings. Interim CEO Sparrman was joined by Governor Inslee, U.S. Senators Patty Murray and Maria Cantwell, whom all spoke at the ribbon cutting ceremony, along with Chair Constantine, Board member Birney, and Board member Balducci.

In addition to Sound Transit event and outreach staff who orchestrated the day's programming, more than 140 volunteer staff ambassadors worked opening day, roughly 530 ambassador hours, and over

Vice Chair Somers called for a roll call vote.

Ayes	Nays
Nancy Backus	Bruce Harrell
Dow Constantine	Roger Millar
Bruce Dammeier	Kim Roscoe
Cassie Franklin	Dave Somers

It was carried by the unanimous vote of eight committee members present that Resolution No. R2024-08 be forwarded to the Board with a do-pass recommendation.

Resolution No. R2024-11: Adopted a System Expansion Project Scope and Betterments Policy and superseding Resolution No. R2009-24 and Motions Nos. M2002-48 and M2002-22.

Alex Krieg, Director of Access, Integration and Station Area Planning, provided the presentation.

Board member Backus commented on her disapproval of the phrase "must learn to fight faster" which was mentioned during slide 9 of staff presentation. She noted this was talking about a partnership and understood the needs for differing opinions but the phrase wasn't focused on collaboration. She expressed that each jurisdiction was working towards achieving what voters have asked and did not want to paint the picture of being "bullies". Interim CEO Sparrman responded in agreement with Board member Backus and noted the delicate balance to have Sound Transit meet its agency objectives within budgetary reason as well as meet partner agency's objectives.

Board member Harrell voiced support towards the Resolution and stated he may bring forth a possible amendment.

Board member Dammeier referenced slide 11 and showed interest for the point of creating a dashboard to capture accurate betterment project data going forward and provide transparency. He explained the importance of having consistent application of the policy, to practice equality across all jurisdictions, and calibrating jurisdictions expectations.

Board member Roscoe added to Board member Dammeier's comment of the dashboard being helpful. She added that the policy should be clear of what would be considered a betterment in this new policy and what wasn't considered as such in the past. She added there needed to be transparency with jurisdictions and for the agency to be clear on changes occurring in the policy, in the implementation of subarea equity, and betterments versus what was voter approved. She noted she would meet with City of Fife staff and did not anticipate submitting amendments at this time but would withhold until she met with them.

Board member Millar asked staff if the policy applied to State and Federal agencies. Mr. Krieg replied with a partial approval. He noted NEPA as a process that would inform the development of scope and identify mitigations needed to implement in the project. In regards to this policy, Sound Transit had a strong partnership with WSDOT and could be less about betterments and more about out of scope work and how Sound Transit projects interacted with WSDOT projects or in WSDOT right of ways.

Board member Millar shared concerned about the staff's response. He noted WSDOT has a safety oversight responsibility per federal law that he did not think should be subjected to a betterments policy. He also noted WSDOT having a lessor/lessee relationship that needed to address state requirements and didn't see that as a discussion of betterments about what Sound Transit's operating and maintenance responsibilities would be as a lessee of State property. Moises Gutierrez, Chief System Quality Officer, shared that it would be based on the relationship such as the cited State safety oversight function within WSDOT and noted that was a different relationship and was an oversight relationship, to Board member Millar's point, it hinged on clarifying that relationship. Board member Millar voiced the landlord tenant relationship was his concern because Sound Transit was moving from an agency that had owned and operated a modest amount of right of way to moving towards owning a substantial acreage that had ongoing maintenance and operational responsibilities. He did not believe Sound

It was carried by the unanimous vote of seven committee members present that Resolution No. R2024-12 be forwarded to the Board with a do-pass recommendation.

Motion No. M2024-21: Authorized the chief executive officer to contribute $20 million to a revolving loan fund held by the Washington State Housing Finance Commission to support the development of affordable housing opportunities related to equitable transit-oriented development within the boundaries of the regional transit authority.

Mara D'Angelo, Deputy Director of Transit Oriented Development, Thatcher Imboden, Director of Community Development Office, and Rennie Elliott, Senior Project Manager for Transit Oriented Development, provided the presentation.

Board member Dammeier asked if staff mentioned there were four $5 million payments made associated with the $20 million statutory requirement. Staff replied that state statute required Sound Transit to contribute $4 million a year for 5 years and Sound Transit had been contributing that amount to a restricted account at Sound Transit and was fully accrued and ready to be deployed. Board member Dammeier asked if that meant the money had been set aside and not yet transmitted and this action was to authorize the transmittal. Staff confirmed.

Motion No. M2024-21 was moved by Board member Roscoe, seconded by Board member Franklin.

Board member Dammeier shared hesitations with this action as he reflected on the high expenses the agency was currently experiencing. He would support it while remaining mindful of the larger financial picture.

Vice Chair Somers called for a roll call vote.

Ayes	Nays
Nancy Backus	Bruce Harrell
Dow Constantine	Roger Millar
Bruce Dammeier	Kim Roscoe
Cassie Franklin	Dave Somers

It was carried by the unanimous vote of eight committee members present that Motion No. M2024-21 be forwarded to the Board with a do-pass recommendation.

Reports to the Committee

Status of implementing the Technical Advisory Group recommendations

Moises Gutierrez, Chief System Quality Officer, provided the presentation focusing on recommendations 1 and 2 and would expand on the other recommendations at the May 2024 System Expansion Committee meeting. For recommendation 1, relating to trust, he noted over the course of the past 2 months, staff had developed a more systemic approach to provide agency opinions and recommendations to the Board. This work involved developing a cost and schedule impact analysis and updating the standard staff report template with clear instructions to develop information the board may need to make decisions. The agency was moving forward with this approach in the coming months and welcomed feedback as it was implemented. Additionally, Board Administration and the Government and Community Relations department collaborated to develop a draft programmatic work plan for the entire Board to have a clear and effective tool to plan work on a regional level and was in alignment with the TAG's recommendation. This also aligned with work plans on a committee level but this would span across all committees.

Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 11:43 a.m.

Dow Constantine
Executive Committee Chair

ATTEST:

Kathryn Flores
Board Administrator

APPROVED on June 6, 2024, JG