



Regional Transportation Investment District of King, Pierce, and Snohomish Counties

411 University St., Suite 1200
Seattle, Washington 98101
(206) 442-4254 – fax: (206) 322-8486
WWW.RTID.DST.WA.US

REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION INVESTMENT DISTRICT **EXECUTIVE BOARD**

SPECIAL MEETING PROCEEDINGS

March 12, 2004 9:00 am
Port of Tacoma Building
(Formally the World Trade Center)
3600 Port of Tacoma Road
Tacoma, WA

1. Call to Order/Roll Call & Welcome

The Executive Board of the Regional Transportation Investment Board was called to order at 9:05 a.m. by Chair Gary Nelson, Snohomish County Council.

Councilmembers Present, Metropolitan King County Council: Rob McKenna, Dwight Pelz, Julia Patterson, David Irons, Carolyn Edmonds

Councilmembers Present, Pierce County Council: Shawn Bunney

Councilmembers Present, Snohomish County Council: Gary Nelson, Dave Gossett

The Chair welcomed King County Councilmembers Bob Ferguson and Kathy Lambert, members of the Planning Committee to the meeting.

2. Approval of Minutes of January 15, 2004 special Executive Board Meeting

Mr. McKenna moved approval of the minutes of the January 15, 2005 Executive Board meeting. Mr. Bunney seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

3. Legislative Session Outcomes

Sen. Jim Horn reported to the Board on the outcomes of the legislative session. In general, he believes that the transportation budget as passed is good, with some increases for security. The budget also addressed issues raised by I-776 and kept intact the nickel gas tax. He reiterated the importance of the RTID and his belief that the RTID is only entity to produce results on transportation projects in the district. He noted that while legislation relating to both the ballot title and tolling authority passed both houses, although not in the same version, there was no final action. He does not believe that this is a fatal flaw to the process because the ballot title issue is like that contained in the Sound Transit legislation and there is possibility of an interlocal agreement relating to tolling authority agreed WSDOT. He reminded the Board

that a decision on state bonding authority is usually not made until after a vote approving the projects is taken, although he also noted that there is no doubt that if the proposition passes, the state will assist with bonding authority. Sen. Horn indicated that the RTID legislation gives the district an unparalleled opportunity to work toward transportation improvements. The Board members thanked Sen. Horn, Sen. Haugen and the Senate for their efforts on behalf of the RTID.

4. RTID Coalition Report

Jim Kelley reported on the work of the task force put together by funders' group of labor, environmentalists and business and indicated the task force's willingness to continue to work to get to a ballot measure that can pass. His concern is that people retain a sense of flexibility in terms of the final package and for a vision for transportation in the region. He strongly encouraged a discussion between Sound Transit and the RTID to craft a balanced transportation package for the 2004 ballot. The Chair thanked Mr. Kelley for the task force's work.

5. Revenue Forecast

Dick Conway and ECONorthwest

Gary Prince, KCDOT, began a presentation on revenue forecasts, which updates an earlier forecast by the Puget Sound Regional Council (PSRC). He introduced Dick Conway and Ted Helvoight of ECONorthwest, who are the outside consultants to the RTID. Mr. Conway also recognized the work of Doug Petersen. Mr. Conway noted that his task was to forecast tax bases for RTID, including taxable retail sales, motor vehicle excise tax (MVET), and registered motor vehicles. He provided information on these tax bases for a 30 year period by region and by each county and described the regional econometric model used to develop the information. Mr. Helvoight presented information on the vehicle tax base methodologies used to develop the information.

A panel to review the revenue forecasts was convened and is comfortable with the methodologies relied on by Mr. Conway and Mr. Helvoight. Amy Arnis and Jeff Caldwell, WSDOT, presented updated information on potential funding levels, including state bonding. Ms. Arnis noted that there will also be an independent review of financing assumptions after those are completed.

The Board heard public comment from Greg Hannon, Western States Petroleum Association; David Petrie and Warren Yee.

6. New Revenue Scenarios Based on Forecast and Legislative Session

Executive Director Kjris Lund reviewed the revenue scenarios that have been previously put forward. She asked that the Board take action to either reaffirm its prior decision on a revenue package or to adopt a new one. Ms. Lund also reviewed the time schedule for a possible ballot in November.

Ms. Lund noted that the current project lists match the current revenue scenario and reminded the Board that the RTID's role is to fund complete projects, not complete corridors. The financing plans assume other funding sources, which are the same as in earlier scenarios. In presenting the revenue scenarios, the following assumptions have been made: (1) there will be an election in 2004; (2) Sound Transit will be included in a joint ballot; (3) there is a 15 year investment plan; (4) there is a suggestion of state bonding, but the scenarios also consider that there will be no state funding; and (5) a vehicle license fee of \$75.

Specifically, there are three scenarios. Scenario 1 is the same as the December scenario, including the Sound Transit impact. Scenario 2 decreases the sales tax by 1/10 of one percent from Scenario 1. Scenario 3 also decreases the sales tax by 1/10 of one percent from Scenario 1 and does not include a local option gas tax. In order to be ready for a November ballot, Ms. Lund encouraged the board to focus on one scenario.

After discussion, Mr. Gossett moves Scenario 2. Mr. Bunney seconds. After further discussion, the motion passed by the following vote:

Ayes: 5 (Mr. McKenna, Ms. Patterson, Mr. Bunney, Mr. Gossett, Chair Nelson)

Noes: 1 (Mr. Pelz)

Excused: 1 (Mr. Goings)

7. Joint Ballot Update

Jeff Richard, Foster Pepper and Shefelman, reviewed a memo on the RTID Joint Ballot Measure dated March 11, 2004. He points out that RCW 36.120.020 permits the RTID to propose "common" ballot with Sound Transit. The Chair stated that the ballot measure will be paid for by RTID, as the ballot will relate only to the RTID proposal, with Sound Transit only permitting the RTID to use some of Sound Transit's high capacity transit authority. Ms. Lund indicated that Sound Transit would not be giving up any taxing authority, just permitting the RTID to use that authority for a period of time, with the details to be clarified in a Memorandum of Agreement between the two agencies.

8. Schedule

Ms. Lund presents an updated schedule to ensure a November 2004 ballot. The next Executive Board meeting should be moved to the end of April in order to permit the staff to work on the agreed-to package. The Planning Committee should then meet at the end of May for approval of final plan. There may also need to be an Executive Board meeting before the Planning Committee meeting.

9. Executive Director's Report

A. Business Plan for District Formation

Ms. Lund indicated that the staff has begun discussion on the steps necessary to create the RTID as a legal entity should the election prove successful.

B. Budget

Ms. Lund presented a report on the current status of the budget. She indicated that if elections costs change, the Board should consider using any excess funds to increase the communications budget.

C. Speaking Engagements

Ms. Lund indicated that she had provided materials on the RTID to the Port of Seattle for a meeting there.

D. Correspondence

Ms. Lund distributed a letter to the Board dated February 25, 2004 regarding Eastside transportation investments.

10. Public Comment

The following people provided comments:

David Petrie

Warren Yee

11. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 11:47 a.m.

Approved this ____ day of _____, 2004.

Chair Gary Nelson

Attest:

Anne Noris, Clerk