

SOUTH COUNTY AREA TRANSPORTATION BOARD (SCATBd)

September 28, 2012

MEETING SUMMARY

Members

Mayor Pete Lewis	City of Auburn (Vice Chair)
Terry Davis	South Sound Chambers of Commerce
Chris Arkills	King County (Alternate)
Councilmember Wayne Snoey	City of Covington
Rick Perez	City of Federal Way (Alternate)
Councilmember Marcie Palmer	City of Renton
Councilmember Elizabeth Albertson	City of Kent
Deputy Mayor Rose Clark	City of Burien
Commissioner Don Meyer	Port of Tacoma
Councilmember Wayne Snoey	City of Covington
Deputy Mayor Victoria Laise Jonas	City of Maple Valley (Alternate)
Councilmember Marcie Palmer	City of Renton
Stacy Trussler	WSDOT
Susan Sanderson	City of SeaTac (Alternate)
Pete Butkus	City of Black Diamond (Alternate)
Brandon Carver	City of Des Moines (Alternative)

I. Open Meeting

The meeting summaries for the July 17 and August 21 SCATBd Meetings were adopted by the Board

II. Reports, Communications and Citizen Requests to Comment

Mayor Lewis reported that a new Federal surface transportation act, known as MAP-21, includes a proposal to add additional state and local arterials to the existing National Highway System (NHS). MAP-21 allocates \$764 million to Washington State for preserving the pavements and bridges on the National Highway System (NHS). Currently, local roads comprise about three percent of the National Highway System in the Puget Sound region. Mayor Lewis said MAP-21 may significantly increase the mileage of local roads included in the system. The MAP-21 steering committee will decide which roads will be added to the National Highway System and decide on how the funding for local roads on the National Highway System will be allocated.

Mayor Lewis noted that the southeast King County area was lacking in candidate arterials for possible inclusion on the NHS. He highlighted the fact that the East and West Valley Highways was not part of the candidate arterials. He said that local jurisdictions should be paying careful attention to this NHS process and should work together to get local arterials on the system. He stressed the need to form project partnerships for corridor connections projects in order to be successful in upcoming grant competitions. He also said local cities should be looking at MAP 21 criteria to put together project recommendations since the

majority of federal dollars will be distributed through the Metropolitan Planning Organizations.

III. South East Area Transportation Solutions Coalition Briefing (SEATS) – Wayne Snoey, SEATS Chair

Wayne Snoey briefed the Board on the South East Area Transportation Solutions Coalition (SEATS). He reported that about 4 years ago, the cities of Black Diamond, Covington, Maple Valley joined together to work on transportation issues of mutual concern, especially within the SR 516 corridor. He said that coordinated funding support for each others projects helps with funding efforts. The three cities originally focused on the Diesel Multiple Unit (DMU) project that would have utilized the Stampede Pass heavy rail line. The \$400,000 DMU study, funded by the state legislature, analyzed the possibility of DMU commuter service between the three cities and the Sounder station in Auburn. The project also looked at possible park and ride lots along line. The study justified the need for DMU service but at a \$170 million cost. After the conclusion of the DMU study, Mr. Snoey said the group decided to continue to meet as a group to look at transportation issues in southeast King County.

SEATS include elected officials and staff from the three cities, and continue to work to educate business members of community on transportation needs. SEATS have developed a brochure to spread SEATS message, and continues to support each member city's efforts for local project funding.

Steve Clark, Maple Valley Public Works Director, said the City of Maple Valley's priority is the SR 169 corridor. Existing development within and outside of Maple Valley has increased freight and commuter traffic within the corridor. The goal is to upgrade the two-lane rural highway to urban corridor standards to accommodate the growth. Mr. Clark said SEATS helps to articulate the transportation concerns and issues within SR 169 corridor, the SR 169 improvements will cost \$4-\$6 million dollars.

Glen Akramoff, Public Works Director for the City of Covington, said that their high priority project was the SR 516 corridor, and noted that there was a lot of pass-through in the SR 516 corridor. Mr. Akramoff said that there are currently two priority projects on SR 515, the first near 168 Place NE to help with retail expansion in the area, and the other project is near Wax road to address existing congestion. He said these projects are currently under design, and the City of Covington is looking for grant opportunities for these \$14 million projects. Mr. Akramoff said the next phase of projects on SR 516 includes improvements from 185 Avenue SE to 192 Avenue SE and a bypass around Covington's retail area. He noted that proposed development in the City of Black Diamond will impact Covington, and there was a lot of interplay between their projects. Mr. Akramoff said SEATS efforts to support each other's projects have been positive for all cities.

Pete Butkus, Interim City Administrator for the City of Black Diamond, said Black Diamond's Roberts Drive/SR 169 roundabout project as high priority. The project will add a roundabout at this intersection and will accommodate a future road connection to the east for the Lawson Hills Master Planned Development. He said this intersection has a higher accident rate than the average along the corridor. He said this intersection has been identified as one of the first traffic mitigation projects that are required in the Master Planned Development FEIS. Mr. Butkus said that this \$2.2 to \$7 million project may end up with a two roundabout configuration. He said an interim solution to improving this interchange may include rechannelizing the intersection with developer funded traffic signals.

V. SCATBd 2013 Legislative Agenda - Local High Priority Project Update, Regional Priority Projects

Cathy Mooney, City of Kent's SCATBd TAC member, presented a draft map and list of regional and local priority projects for the Board's review. Ms. Mooney said the Board asked the SCATBd TAC to update local project priorities in preparation for the development of SCATBd's 2013 legislative message. She also passed out copies of the SCATBd's 2012 Legislative Message Brochure, she said SCATBd members expressed a desire to continue the 2012 message into 2013 and with some minor tweaks would develop an updated version of the brochure.

Mayor Lewis said Boardmembers should review project descriptions, and the brochure. He said that a concise and short message was a key marketing strategy that will best serve South County needs. Commissioner Meyer advised the Board that the project descriptions should say how the projects support state transportation goals. He said that by identifying how these local projects support the State's needs, the needs will be better received by state legislators. Commissioner Meyers said that all projects have a benefit for congestion relief or freight mobility, and the project descriptions need to express these values. Mayor Lewis agreed with the messaging suggestions; he said that we've heard about the value in forming partnerships and corridor projects. The project descriptions should articulate how they support state transportation goals, why they have value to the state, and how they help the economy.

VI. Sound Transit Briefing on South Subarea Projects

Rachel Smith and Cathal Ridge, Sound Transit, briefed the Board on Sound Transit's South Sound Projects. Ms. Smith began her briefing by saying revenue forecasts showed a decline in expected 2008 – 2023 revenues. Ms. Smith said that Sound Transit is expecting a \$700 million hit to its budget, on top of \$4.1 billion hit previously estimated due to the bad economy. The Sound Transit Board will address the budget deficit through \$80 million in reductions in 2013 and said that no projects will be cancelled. She said the Sound Transit Board will review the budget in the fall and she will report back to SCATBd.

Ms. Smith said Sound Transit continues to make progress the regional light rail system. The UW light rail extension is on schedule and is expected to open in 2016, and the extension to Northgate is expected by 2021. She said planning is underway for the light rail extension to Overlake, with an expected opening date in 2023. Ms. Smith reported that Sound Transit has finalized development agreements with the City of SeaTac and the Port of Seattle for the South 200th Street light rail extension project. Sound Transit recently awarded a design build contract worth \$182 million to PCL Construction. Work on the South 200th Street extension will start next year with an expected opening date in 2016, four years ahead of schedule.

Cathal Ridge, Project Manager for Federal Way Transit Center Extension projects briefed the Board on the status of the Federal Way Transit Extension study now underway. He said the study will analyze a light rail extension from South 200th Street in the City of SeaTac to the Federal Way Transit Center. The study will look at the potential for three light rail stations at Kent-Des Moines Road, South 272nd Street and at the Federal Way Transit Center. The study includes three phases -- Alternative Analysis, Draft EIS and Conceptual Engineering for the light rail extension project. Mr. Ridge said that Sound Transit has enough funds to complete preliminary engineering work for the South 200 Street to Kent-Des Moines Road segment. South Transit does have the capability to expand preliminary engineering scope or work if more money becomes available.

Mr. Ridge said that extending light rail south from Federal Way to Tacoma was not part of the overall project. An analysis of a light rail segment between Federal Way and Tacoma is scheduled to begin in December and that study will also look at alignment options, possible station locations and what other transit modes that might be available to increase the efficiency of Sound Transit's existing system.

Ms. Smith reported that Sound Transit is opening Sounder Service down to Lakewood, and is working with BNSF for four additional Sounder runs in the South King subarea. She also reported Sound Transit will be advertising a contract for a permanent Tukwila Sounder station within the month. The proposed opening for the Tukwila Station is for late 2014. The station will include 400 parking stalls, bike facilities, pedestrian and bus connections, and covered platforms.

VII. Other Business

Other Attendees:

Carolyn Logue, South Sound Chambers	Glenn Akramoff, Covington
Cathy Mooney, Kent	Steve Clark, Maple Valley
Doug Jacobson, Renton	Councilmember Bill Pelozo, City of Auburn, SCATBd Alt
Rachel Smith, Sound Transit	Cathal Ridge, Sound Transit
Wesley Edwards, King County	

