

Present: Dwight Baker; John Coney; Ray Day, Jr.; Dave Elliott; Sandy Paul-Lyle; Joan Sells, Chair; Tina Shereen, Vice-Chair

Excused: Andy Bennett; Hans Brandal; John Jensen; Holly Plackett; Anirudh Sahni; Carla Saulter; Mike Taylor

Staff: Barbara de Michele, Community Relations Planner; David Hull, Supervisor of Service Planning; Mike Beck, Ferry District project manager; Jim Hammond, Sound Transit Communications Manager

Sells opened the meeting at 6:05 p.m.

Tunnel Opening/Third Avenue

Hull reported that the tunnel is “right on schedule” to open on September 24. Similar to the tunnel closing process, Metro will provide intensive communications to customers about the opening. Community outreach will include news releases, public outreach to customers and businesses, and street teams. Metro and the City of Seattle recently announced that Third Avenue will remain a “busway” during business hours. The announcement has been well received. As a result, 21 routes will go back into the tunnel, but Routes 177, 190, 196, 266, 306, and 312 will remain on the surface. In addition, Routes 74, 174 and 217 will be new to the tunnel.

The criteria for selecting which routes returned to the tunnel included:

- The tunnel is limited to a total of 60 buses per hour. This limit will remain until Metro develops experience with the dual operation of LINK light rail and bus service in the tunnel.
- Metro needs to make the best use of the tunnel all day long, meaning that the highest capacity buses (articulated buses) were first priority.
- New connections and configurations meant that it made more sense to leave certain routes on the surface.

The tunnel will only be open on the weekdays until LINK becomes operational. Metro will also need to educate some riders to look for their bus on 4th Avenue (not 3rd) during tunnel closures. New neon signs will be installed to warn drivers to stay off Third Avenue during business hours. Metro is also working on some logistical refinements now that the floor of the tunnel has been lowered.

Ferry District

Beck reported on the progress of the King County Ferry District. Creation of the district was approved by the Council, which now becomes the Ferry District Board until the organization is further established. The FDB has held one meeting and provided staff with direction for next steps. Staff is working on an operation plan for the district. A draft plan should be available in October for adoption in November. At that time, the Council will need to enact a tax measure to support the district. Beck said he would like to return to the TAC in October with an update.



RTID/ST2

Jim Hammond, Sound Transit II Communications Director, provided members with an overview of the Transit & Roads measure that will be on the ballot in November. The measure is proposing a .6 of 1 percent increase in the sales tax and an .8 of 1 percent increase in the MVET tax to support extension of light rail and maintenance and construction of new lanes of road. During discussion, Coney requested information about the impact of the measure on the “Mercer Mess.” Shereen asked about the balance of roads to transit, and how that is measured. Hammond responded that he would investigate both questions and get information back to the group. Baker asked if local jurisdictions had had input into the plan. Hammond responded that each jurisdiction had input through the PSRC, the RTID or other means. Day asked what Sound Transit would do if the plan failed. Hammond responded that ST would continue to implement Phase I of the link light rail plan, and that it would probably come back to voters with a different proposal.

Paul-Lyle expressed concern about the state of Washington’s transportation infrastructure, especially in light of a recent bridge failure in Minneapolis. “We’ve taken our infrastructure for granted,” she said. Shereen followed up with a question of the balance between the sales tax and the MVET tax. Hammond responded that the MVET tax would provide about 25% of the revenue, and sales tax approximately 75%.

Following Hammond’s presentation, TAC members discussed the information and agreed to work on the measure as individuals. TAC does not take positions on ballot measures.

Committee Business

- Tina Shereen will attend the next Regional Transit Committee meeting on August 15.
- Day reported on his and Bennett’s presentation to the Budget Committee on the partial bus wrap issue. De Michele noted that the partial bus wrap demonstration bus should be available in early September. TAC will be notified.
- De Michele reported that nearly 50 people have applied for membership on TAC. Staff is in the process of reviewing applications and will make recommendations in the next few days.
- De Michele also reported that Metro will begin recruiting for two Rapid Ride Advisory Panels (Bellevue-Redmond and West Seattle) in late August. The two panels will begin meeting in October.
- The state-wide Transit Advisory Committee convention is scheduled for Saturday, October 13 in Mason County near Olympia. Metro will cover registration and travel expenses for the TAC chair and vice chair to attend. Other members may attend by paying the \$30 fee and providing their own transportation. De Michele will send out information about the convention via e-mail.

Sells adjourned the meeting at 8:10 p.m.