

City of SeaTac

Council Workshop Minutes Synopsis

December 14, 2010
5:00 PM

City Hall
Council Chambers

CALL TO ORDER: The SeaTac City Council Workshop was called to order by Mayor Terry Anderson at 5:11 p.m.

COUNCIL PRESENT: Mayor Terry Anderson, Deputy Mayor (DM) Gene Fisher, Councilmembers (CMs) Rick Forschler, Anthony (Tony) Anderson, Ralph Shape, Pam Fernald, and Mia Gregerson.

STAFF PRESENT: Interim City Manager (ICM) Todd Cutts, City Attorney Mary Mirante Bartolo, City Clerk Kristina Gregg, Interim Assistant City Manager (IACM) Jeff Robinson, Program Manager Soraya Lowry, Public Works (PW) Director Tom Gut, Senior Planner Al Torrico, Acting Fire Chief Brian Wiwel, and Police Administrative Captain Annette Louie.

DISCUSSION ITEMS:

•Sound Transit on Budget and South 200th Street Extension Project Update

Program Manager Lowry introduced Sound Transit Business Services Deputy Executive Director Ron Lewis, Sound Transit Government and Community Relations Specialist Rachel Smith, Port of Seattle (POS) Aviation Community Development Director Diane Summerhays and POS Aviation Planner Tom Hooper. Both the South 200th Street Extension project and the South Access project will use the same corridor so the two agencies have been working together to ensure that the projects are compatible.

Ms. Smith reviewed the budget. The Sound Transit Board will be adopting the 2011 budget on December 16. There is a \$3.9 billion revenue shortfall. Because of the significant shortfall the board is not making decisions on the project, but has directed staff to develop a work plan for best delivering services. Staff is recommending accelerating the South 200th Street project as part of the plan. To formalize the plan, the board will be adopting a motion along with the budget that codifies that Sound Transit is moving forward with the work plan for the south corridor. The motion will state that no formal decisions have been made. It will also set a framework for the board to make decisions about the south corridor. By the end of 2011, the intention is to have a plan as to how to move forward on all projects south of South 200th Street.

Mr. Lewis stated that Sound Transit's staff recommendation to the board includes full funding of design for this project.

He updated Council on the status of design refinement. The goal is to look at revising the alignment and station location and prepare a cost estimate and delivery schedule for the project for the board to consider in the spring of 2011. Sound Transit's efforts are being closely coordinated with City and POS staffs.

Mr. Lewis reviewed the design refinement including track alignment and station site layout which will occur in December 2010. Design and construction are scheduled to begin in 2012 and end in 2015 and light rail service beginning in 2016.

Ms. Lowry stated that there are two parts to the public involvement: (1) per the High Capacity Transit (HCT) Standard, there is a requirement that the City convene an Ad Hoc Committee (AHC). Staff is currently getting recommendations for members from the Council. The committee will be appointed in early 2011; and (2) public involvement undertaken by Sound Transit.

Mr. Lewis stated that Sound Transit has already started public outreach for this project. A couple of newsletters have been distributed to the community. The property owners and businesses adjacent to or along the alignment have been contacted. Early in 2011 there will be a community-wide meeting to update the general public.

He stated that a traffic analysis is underway to better understand the historic traffic issues.

Mr. Lewis reviewed design refinement objectives: optimize alignment for light rail, ensure compatibility with POS access roads and City streets, ensure compatibility with future connection to SR 509, and minimize right-of-way (ROW) acquisition.

•Port of Seattle (POS) on South Access Update

Aviation Planner Hooper stated that the POS doesn't have a project going forward right now, but it is just as critical to coordinate with Sound Transit to optimize the alignment and have flexibility for future capacity of the airport.

The Airports Comprehensive Development Plan is the airport's master plan for future airport essential facilities. The goal of the plan is to balance the landside terminal and airside support and cargo facilities with a fixed capacity of the

DISCUSSION ITEMS (Continued):

POS on South Access Update (Continued): three-runway airfield. This will ensure that the POS can provide for the future demand of the airport. Through the environmental review process and approval from the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), 12 projects received unconditional review, but 49 were reviewed at a higher level and received conditional review.

The POS staff has been working with Sound Transit on a planning level. He stated the POS's commitment to build a connection to the extension of SR 509 from the current terminus to I-5, if and when it is funded. He reviewed the tunnel and aerial options.

He reviewed the benefits of the aerial option, including no loss of capacity or flexibility on the roadway side. There are many complications with building a tunnel option, including the construction time would be longer due to utilities under the roadway.

Council discussion ensued regarding the South Access including placement of the roadway and the ability to share a bridge for Sound Transit and South Access. Mr. Hooper stated that the POS wouldn't want to build a roadway structure for the South Access only because it is contingent on SR 509 which may never move forward.

Mr. Lewis stated that elevations and aesthetics is something Sound Transit will be looking into so the Light Rail and South Access visually look like one project instead of two.

ICM Cutts stated that the goal of tonight's presentation is to get Council comfortable with the concept. The POS and Sound Transit are asking for the City to express its comfort level, knowing that there will be more information about this concept. If Council concurs with this concept, a letter will be drafted from the Mayor expressing their approval. Staff will then be back before Council with an agreement in February or March 2011 to memorialize tonight's discussion.

ADJOURNED: Mayor T. Anderson adjourned the Council Workshop at 5:56 p.m.