

# August 2021 Seattle Transit Advisory Board meeting

Minutes, 8/25/2021

Board members: Erin Tighe, Emily Walton Percival, Alex Wakeman-Rouse, Barbara Wright, Sandro Pani, Art Kuniyuki, Keiko Budech, Carla Saulter, Andy Martin, Michelle Zeidman.

SDOT: Nico Martinucci, Cliff Mountjoy-Venning, Eleen Trang.

Public: John Niles.

Andy Martin called the meeting to order. Introductions.

## **Approval of June meeting minutes**

Erin moves to approve, Michelle seconds. No objections, abstentions. Minutes approved.

## **Sound Transit TOD Update**

*Carrie Avila-Mooney & Mara D'Angelo, Sound Transit*

Presentation:

- Focus: current and future opportunities
- Overview of TOD at Sound Transit, equitable TOD policy adopted in 2018, state statute on surplus property which requires 80% used for affordable housing
- 2,400 affordable homes built or in process so far
- Overviews of current Capitol Hill Station TOD, Beacon Hill Colina West & East, Roosevelt Cedar Crossing, Madison/Boylston projects
- Future projects: Pride Place in Capitol Hill, 10 Rainier Valley small sites for home ownership, Columbia City Youth Achievement Center, Mount Baker East Portal TOD, U District TOD, U District TOD tiny home village (temporary, opening October)

Board Questions:

- Erin: family-size housing only? Answer: communities have expressed desire for family-size units, will be at Cedar Crossing and Madison/Boylston projects and Rainier Valley home ownership.
- Erin: U District TOD alley vacation—do you need support on this? Answer: looking into this and understand that it's rare; it would be useful because the alley divides the site. Would appreciate assistance and advocacy on this.
- Alex: how will you ensure that equitable housing goals stay once land is transfer to City? Answer: property transfer agreement with City includes commitments on number of units, affordability, other community engagement priorities. Also, always have an affordable housing covenant on the property good for 50 years.
- Alex: at-grade light rail in Rainier Valley and accidents happen, are there steps you're taking to ensure pedestrian safety as development increases. Answer: robust discussion in ST about this, consultant looking at all safety data from SDOT and ST re: near misses and fatalities to identify opportunities to improve safety (striping, signage, etc.) and there will be a community conversation on this too, with design/budget next year for treatments.
- Art: thank you to ST for the Capitol Hill TOD.
- Andy: what qualifies as a family unit? Answer: 2+ bedrooms.

- Carla: TOD policy goals—what was the impetus and what’s defined as affordable? How do you decide who develops what, where? Answer: 2016 state statute requires 80% of ST surplus land go to developers with 80% of units developed as long-term affordable housing at 80% AMI, and can be discounted below market value. MFTE housing units don’t count because temporary. Often looking at 30% AMI, exception is with Rainier Valley home ownership where income is a little higher. Described ST steps for TOD land transfer to developers.

Follow-up:

- ST will return to talk about other parts of its TOD work.

### **King County Metro Northgate Link Connections Mobility Project**

*Dave VanderZee, King County Metro*

Presentation:

- Overview of project, goals, community engagement process (3 phases)
- Overview of plan highlights: 6 new routes, 22 revised routes, 11 replaced routes, 2 deleted, 12 bus stop improvements around light rail stations.
- 150,000 annual service hours reinvested back into project area—some service hours, including STBD hours, are not being kept in the project area.
- Key themes from community feedback and how they were addressed, including transfers, transit connections, east-west and crosstown connections, all-day service, infrastructure/built environment
- North Link Equity Impact Review: rated block groups based on a 1-5 equity priority score, and found that block groups have the highest priority scores will get increased transit during peak periods, small reduction in service levels mid-day, not disproportionately impacted.
- Spider maps – new communication/wayfinding tool for transfers between bus and rail
- Overview of outcomes from restructure: frequent connections, east-west connections, improved peak connections, increased frequency on local/all-day routes, revised connections, reduction in STBD investment
- Approx 25,000 STBD-funded service hours remain
- New route #20, replaces #26 from Northgate to U.District, and extends to Lake City (#75) – STBD funding to make it an all-day connection.
- All all-day routes will start at full service levels. Peak routes will operate at about 50% of planned level of service on October 2 – with more trips added in next 1-2 years (COVID recovery approach)
- Late breaking changes: Route #20 southbound on Latona will not turn onto 50<sup>th</sup>, but rather onto 45<sup>th</sup>, as a result of signal timing issues. Permanent shift to 45<sup>th</sup>.
- U.District 43<sup>rd</sup> St station buses will be on re-route/current routing for first few weeks of new structure because of trolley wire work which won’t be complete before service change, but hope will be remedied in first month of new service.

Board Questions:

- Barbara: wayfinding system planned looks less confusing than what’s at Montlake. Will you apply what you learned to the Montlake Triangle station? Answer: expecting less transfer activity at Montlake Triangle station with opening of U.District station; not sure what the planned improvements are, but things are under consideration. Want to expand the spider maps to the Montlake Triangle and beyond.

- Andy: is there a map for the route #20 as passed? Answer: they are being added to the “Get Ready” page on Metro’s website and should have that map now/soon. Will send to us directly.
- Erin: extension of 31/32 to Childrens’ Hospital will they not go to Sandpoint. Answer: they will go to U.District Station and continue down 45<sup>th</sup>, down counterbalance, to Children’s. Split 31/32 from 75. 75 and 45 connected instead through campus. Responds to folks wanting east-west connection from light rail to Childrens’ Hospital.
- Erin/Andy: connecting U.District to grocery store in U.Village is a win.
- Andy: when is our next chance for east-west service on 80<sup>th</sup>? Answer: already laying groundwork for Lynnwood Link extension restructure, with have overlapping routes from Northlink in its project scope. Planning and engagement process starts early next year for this, complete 2024.
- Erin: September service change pushed to October, how much of a pickle was that? Answer: was a challenge to move service changes, pretty rare due to labor union schedules/process. But didn’t want bus service changes to happen before light rail opened.
- Michelle: thank you for the spider maps, super helpful. Answer: will pass along the praise.

#### Follow-up:

- Dave will send a copy of the new #20 route map.

#### Board Liaison/Workgroups/Project Committees

- Emily reported from Move Seattle Levy Oversight Board August meeting: discussed neighborhood street fund, 3<sup>rd</sup> and final cycle with \$5 million left. Board asked to approve not going back out for another engagement process and instead fund projects from 2<sup>nd</sup> round, and save the engagement dollars. Discussed and ultimately approved not going back out a 3<sup>rd</sup> time, but team will go back to project submitters to discuss changes to needs. And then send the projects straight to the committee. Alex: It was a really robust engagement effort for the 2<sup>nd</sup> round (2018-2019). But would be nice to have the community get to rank the projects again.

#### Recruitment/Reappointment Update

- 5 expired positions. 3: Alex, Carla, and Jen have decided not to seek additional term on the board. 2: Erin and Michelle, went before transportation and utility committee and sailed through; doesn’t think council has had a full session yet, no issues anticipated.
- Recruitment for 3 open positions: closes Friday. Only 5 apps so far. Likely to re-open for a couple more weeks to broaden pool. Discussions of doing social media, but may be mostly the blog post. Maybe we see if City Councilmembers can share with their constituents?
- Get Engaged: program had lack of applications, will assign someone to the board until there is a big uptick in applicants before end of month.
- Keiko: are they offering stipends or childcare? Answer: There are conversations about this.

#### Major Items updates:

- Proposed uses for STBD emerging mobility needs funds: more flexible than rest of STBD program. Adding 30,000 annual service hours to 50, 60, 120, C line which will phase out next Fall/March 2022. \$1million for TDM activities: Mobility Solutions working with Metro and TransitGo ticket app to gamify transit riding and allow users to redeem points for free rides on transit and, to a lesser extent, micromobility for access to transit; piloting in West Seattle/peninsula.
- C & D line “early wins” (part of ST3 funding) – supports construction of H line which will benefit the C line. Agreement with ST to pursue a list of smaller projects: spot improvements, etc. – still

under review. Andy: does this mean no BAT lanes? Answer: spot improvements can include bus-only lanes just not RapidRide corridors.

- Recovery ORCA cards: new element under STBD, provides up to 2,000 ORCA cards for grocery store workers in Pioneer Square and International District. Initial distribution in early June. July first full month of use: 78% used at least once. 38,622 individual boardings in July across all modes including ferries. Avg. 25 rides/user in the month. Saved folks over \$107,000. Outreach to businesses with few participants forthcoming.
- Cliff is new to team and will be taking over TAB liaison duties around beginning of 2022. Shadowing Nico in interim.

**Other Board Business:**

- Erin: West Seattle-Ballard Link DEIS out in next few months. We could write the local FTA office to request a 90-day public comment period, instead of the standard 45-day period.
- Return to in-person meetings: no news. Vaccine mandate for City staff, with return to office minimum 2 days a week starting 10/18.
- Liaison to the Move Seattle Levy Oversight Board: Emily is interested in doing this.

**Public Comment**

No public comments.

Meeting adjourned at 8:01pm.